



Dear Homeowners,

Due to this most recent fire in our community we would like all home owners to follow these simple steps to help prevent the loss of life and property.

- Never leave food unattended on a stove.
- Keep cooking areas free of flammable objects (such as, potholders and towels).
- Avoid wearing clothes with long, loose-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Never smoke in bed or leave burning cigarettes unattended.
- Never grill on balcony or terraces. Grilling should be at a 30 feet minimum from any building in PG County.
- Do not overload electrical circuits. Many avoidable electrical fires can be traced to misuse of electric cords, such as overloading circuits, poor maintenance, and running the cords under rugs or in high traffic areas.
- Never place portable space heaters near flammable materials (such as, drapery).
- Keep all matches and lighters out of reach of children. Store them up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave lighted candles unattended.
- Never use candle as the primary lighting source in a power outage. Use flash lights and/ battery operated lanterns as a light source.
- Install smoke alarms near the kitchen and rooms in which people sleep.
- Use long-life smoke alarms with lithium-powered batteries and hush buttons, which allow persons to stop false alarms quickly. If long-life alarms are not available, use regular alarms, and replace the batteries annually.
- Test all smoke alarms every month to ensure they work properly.
- Devise a family fire escape plan and practice it every 6 months. In the plan, describe at least two different ways each family member can escape every room, and designate a safe place in front of the home for family members to meet after escaping a fire.
- Never lite fireworks in the community.
- Before installing large electrical appliances, consult with a licensed electrician to ensure your electric system is functioning properly and can handle the additional load.

Lastly, we highly recommends all home owners to purchase and/or update your home owner's insurance policy to the new Maryland, HO6 insurance requirements. HO-6 policy benefits include:

- Coverage for damage to personal property such as furniture, computer equipment and clothing
- Fill in the gaps of the master insurance policy and cover losses under master policy deductibles
- Personal liability coverage
- Interior walls and floor coverings coverage
- Coverage for improvements or upgrades (most master insurance policies only cover the original condition and value of the unit).
- Usually has small deductible and fairly inexpensive

Sincerely,

Stuart J. Rogal
Managing Agent