

Fire Detection & Prevention at home

“It was a dark and stormy night...”

This is how Snoopy starts his stories in the Peanuts cartoon series. Unfortunately those dark and stormy nights will soon be upon us. Winter is just around the corner. The clocks have been reset, with these changes, the Code Office wishes to remind everyone to also **replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors with brand new ones** and test the units to see that they are functioning properly.

We also wish to remind all landlords that it is *mandatory* that they provide working smoke detectors for all rented or leased apartments and residences. The recommended locations for place smoke detectors are *in every accessible area*. That would mean bedrooms and the hall immediately outside the bedrooms, the living room, dining areas and outside the kitchen.

The tenant, too, is responsible for making sure the smoke detectors are checked regularly and are functioning properly. It is the recommendation of the Code Enforcement Office that every landlord discuss the importance of the smoke detectors with the tenants that are renting their apartments to. They might wish to have the tenant sign a document to agree not to disable, damage or remove any detectors placed in the apartment. It is also the responsibility of the tenant to notify the landlord of any malfunction or problem with the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as soon as it is discovered. It is only through cooperation of the landlord and tenant that we are able to maintain a safe and healthy environment for those rental units.

We would also like to take this opportunity, as we come upon the holiday season and are decorating our homes, to remind everyone to check the extension cords used throughout the home. Look for damaged and bare, broken or hot wires. Make sure you are not overloading an outlet or circuit and that the wires are grounded properly. Do not use multiple plug-in strips on outlets not designed for their use.

It is also important to have a fire extinguisher handy. There are several excellent models available at a very reasonable cost in most hardware and department stores. If you already have one on hand now is the time to check that it is in good working order. The powdered chemical variety can be tipped upside down and shaken or tapped on the floor to keep the powder in them from caking.

The Code Office and Sayre Borough wish to extend to everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

If you have questions about this topic, want to find out what penalties might occur for noncompliance, or if you have any other code questions related to Sayre Borough feel free to call us at 570-888-4410. Our office hours are 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mon. – Fri. (except for major Holidays)

Sayre Borough Codes can be found online at www.generalcode.com Just follow the links.