

Reminders

- Get out of the apartment.
- Once out—STAY OUT! - DO not go back in for ANY reason.
- Call 9-1-1 from a safe location.
- Give the dispatcher as much information as possible.
- Use your fire escape plan. **GO** to the designated family meeting place.
- Try to let your neighbors know how to get out. Help the elderly or families who have many children.
- Have someone meet the fire engine when they arrive, if it can be done safely.
- Keep the Fire Lanes open.
- If you can't get out, use a mobile phone to stay in touch with the 9-1-1 dispatchers. Shine a flashlight or wave a sheet out the window to alert firefighters that you're trapped. **Stay Calm!**



Ceres Fire Department

Station No. 1 2755 Third Street

Station No. 2 830 Pecos

Station No. 3 420 E. Service Road

Station No. 4 3101 Fowler Road

Leadership

Art de Werk, Director

Brian F. Weber, Deputy Chief

Bryan G. Nicholes, Fire Marshal

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Ceres, California

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**Live Safely in
Your
Apartment
At Risk—At Home**



**What To Do If
There's a Fire**

**This information brought to you
by the Ceres Fire Department**

Prevention—Education—Training

Tips for Living Safely in Apartment Buildings

- **Make sure you have smoke alarms that work.**

The Fire Code requires working smoke alarms in every apartment unit. Existing apartments require smoke alarms in the hallway outside sleeping areas. Newly constructed apartments now require them IN sleeping rooms as well.

- **The apartment complex is required to have a fire extinguisher within 75-foot travel distance.**

If fire extinguishers are not provided outside the apartments, then each apartment is required to have one.

- **The Fire Code states that no person shall use fixed or portable barbeques in or under any attached covered patios, balconies, covered walkways or roof overhangs.**

When in use, barbeques should be located on ground level and be a minimum of 5 feet from buildings, structures, covered walkways or roof overhangs.

- **Don't park in front of fire hydrants and don't park in the Fire Lanes.**

Respecting the fire restriction may literally save your life. When friends visit, be sure to remind them to park only in appropriate parking areas.

- **Never leave smoking materials burning. Never smoke in bed.**

In 2001, the most common cause of apartment fires was careless disposal of smoking materials.

- **Have a fire escape plan. Practice it.**

Know at least two ways to get out of your apartment. Pick a family meeting place outside the apartment building.

- **Make sure there is a number for your apartment.**

If there isn't, contact the management.

- **Keep a copy of your apartment number and apartment building number, inside your apartment, near the phone.**

The information will then be handy for babysitters and it will be there if you panic.

- **Complex owners and managers need to be sure gated driveways are accessible to Firefighters.**

75 Percent of multi-housing complexes are not gated. Work with the fire department to make sure access requirements are met.

- **Don't use extension cords under carpets or from unit to unit.**

They can easily overheat. Extension cords are for temporary use only. They are not to be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.

- **Get acquainted with the elderly folks in your building.**

If there's a fire, they may have extra difficulty getting out. You may be able to help them, or you can direct firefighters to the elderly person's apartment.