HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

HEATING
☐ Keep furniture, curtains and other stuff away from baseboard heaters
☐ Massachusetts prohibits the use of non-electric portable heaters
☐ Keep electric portable heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that burns
   This generally includes everything in your home
☐ Never use an extension cord to run a portable electric heater

ELECTRICAL
☐ Use surge-protected power strips while limiting the use of extension cords and never string them together or run them under rugs or through doorways
☐ Exercise care when charging electronic devices by always charging on a hard surface (never on a bed or couch)
☐ Never leave charging devices unattended and avoid using generic replacement batteries
☐ Unplug small appliances like toasters, curling irons, hair dryers when not in use

HOUSEKEEPING
☐ Massachusetts prohibits storing gasoline, lawn mowers, and motorcycles in your home
☐ Store ashes from Fireplaces or woodstoves in metal containers outside your home
☐ Candles are a cause of home fires (Your landlord may not allow the use of candles or a fireplace/wood stove – check your rental agreement)

SMOKING
☐ Smoking in bed and improper disposal of cigarette butts cause fires

KITCHEN
☐ Never leave cooking food unattended, which can cause kitchen fires
☐ In the event of a cooking fire, put a lid on it
   Never put water on a cooking fire, or carry a burning pan of oil outside
☐ Never use your oven to heat your home

SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS
☐ These are required in every home by Mass state law
☐ You and your landlord are required by law to maintain them in operable condition
☐ If battery operated, your landlord should change the batteries every year
☐ The age of your building will determine what other fire safety installations are required

ESCAPE PLAN
☐ Have two ways to get out of every room, especially the bedrooms
HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

KNOW WAYS TO GET OUT
As you and your housemates are moving things in to your place, make sure you identify two ways to get out of every room, especially your bedrooms. Arrange your things so you can easily get out through the windows. Make sure the windows and doors open easily.

KNOW WHERE TO MEET
Pick a meeting place outside, well away from the building. Do a head count at the meeting place to make sure everyone got out.

STAY OUT & CALL 911
Call 911 as soon as you are outside safely. Once you are outside, stay outside and wait for help.

SAFE ESCAPE TIPS
☐ If you see smoke, try another way out.
☐ If you cannot avoid the smoke, crawl under it on your hands and knees
☐ Do not stop or go back for anything. Possessions can be replaced. You cannot
☐ Fire spreads quickly. Get out fast and stay out. Call 911 as quickly as possible

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

COUNT SMOKE ALARMS
You’ll want to see one smoke alarm right outside every bedroom and at least one on every level of your home. Other rules will vary based on the age of your building.

If you don’t see smoke detectors call your landlord right away, or call the Amherst Fire Department (413) 259-3082.

CHECK SMOKE ALARMS & CO DETECTORS
Press the test button on smoke alarms and your carbon monoxide detectors every month to make sure they are still working properly. It’s a good idea to vacuum them once in a while to remove dust or cobwebs.

CHANGE BATTERIES
Your smoke alarm and CO detector batteries should be changed at least once a year. Replacement detectors should be sealed units, with 10-year batteries.

SELF-INSPECTION

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST
☐ Housemates should all know the Escape Plan
☐ Have a meeting place
☐ Keep doors and windows clear of obstructions
☐ Doors and windows should open easily and fully for escape in the event of an emergency
☐ Fire Escapes must be kept clear from any obstructions (i.e. furniture, grills or trash cans)
☐ Do not use extension cords indoors
☐ Do not run power cords under carpets or furniture
☐ Check your rental agreement – candles and smoking may not be allowed
☐ If you have a gas or charcoal grill, it must be at least 10 feet from any building

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
A properly operated fire extinguisher can stop a small fire and keep it from growing. An ABC, multipurpose dry chemical extinguisher is the recommended type.
Before using it make sure:
☐ You know how to use it
☐ You know how to tell if it’s safe to use
☐ You’ve called 911
☐ You alert others to evacuate
☐ You get out yourself if you need to