

Space and Baseboard Heaters.

Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 foot) away from anything that can burn, such as paper, bedding, furniture, drapes etcetera.

Turn off space heaters before going to bed or going out, better still use one that has an automatic shut-off feature.

Keep the area around baseboard heaters clear of furniture, drapes, bedding anything that can burn, it is recommended that all items are kept at least 12" away for baseboard heaters in all directions.

Electrical Equipment.

To prevent fires caused by electrical equipment

Use an approved power bar with a circuit breaker and surge protector to plug in computer and stereo equipment, power bars are **ONLY** intended for temporary use with low power consumption items such as computers, monitors etc, **they are NOT** intended to be used with microwaves, heaters, fridges etcetera.

ALWAYS avoid the use of extension cords as permanent wiring.

Electrical safety.

Ensure that you do not overload outlets by using multi outlet adaptors, and that all outlets in bathrooms and outlets within 1 metre (3 foot) of a kitchen sink have a Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) and ensure that all power outlets and light switches have a cover plate on them.

Overloaded circuits are dangerous electrical hazards that can be avoided. Many fires have started due to the overloading of electrical equipment



Make sure that electrical cords ARE NOT concealed under carpets or rugs where they can be easily damaged.



Remember,
Only a working smoke
alarm saves lives!

Contact Big White Fire Department if you have questions about fire safety in your building

Big White Fire Department

7555 Porcupine Road
Big White
BC
Station Phone Number
250 765 3090

For all Emergencies
Dial 911

Big White Fire Department

Fire Safety Basics for staff accommodation



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Fire Safety and you

Fire Safety Basics for Staff Accommodation

For many of you this will be your first time away from your home or country, and searching for affordable accommodation. Whilst affordability will be a key issue in determining where you live another serious consideration in your decision must that of:

Fire Safety.

For many of you planning ahead, fire safety may be secondary to other issues such as work and living accommodations. Many young adults believe that fires are not something that will happen to them. Not considering the potential risks of living in a home that doesn't comply with basic fire safety requirements can result in a loss of life(s). It is also important to ensure that you have two ways out of your sleeping accommodation, for example, a window that opens allowing unhindered egress to the building's exterior and the bedroom door.

Fire Separations.

Fire separations act as a barrier against the spread of fire by separating various parts of a building from another, for example: floor levels, bedrooms, living areas etcetera, these are seen by us as walls and ceilings fully covered with drywall material. However once there are holes in the ceilings and walls the fire separation is compromised which can, in the event of a fire, allow smoke and flames to spread to other parts of the building.

You may find your accommodation in an older home that has been converted into apartments or rooms with common kitchens etc. It is important to ensure that your living accommodation is in good condition. Any renovation must be carried out under a building permit, and that there are no breaches or holes in walls and/or ceilings.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your landlord or the Big White Fire Department who will if deemed necessary, carry out an inspection at no cost to you, or your landlord, please note that all inquiries are kept private and confidential.

Smoke alarms.



Thousands of lives have been saved by properly installed and working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms provide you with the earliest warning of a fire, but **only** if it is properly installed, properly maintained, and in a suitable location, such as a bedroom, hallway living area etcetera.

When purchasing or replacing smoke alarms consider smoke alarms with a "hush" feature, especially if it is to be installed near a kitchen or bathroom. This feature silences the smoke alarm for several minutes and resets itself, also Photoelectric smoke alarms may be less prone to nuisance alarms caused by cooking activities. If you are purchasing a battery operated smoke alarm, consider purchasing one with a 10 year battery life.

Warning: Disabling a smoke alarm by removing batteries, disconnecting wires or covering the smoke alarm will leave you unprotected!

TEST your smoke alarms monthly correcting any problems that you find immediately, such as replacing batteries or faulty alarms.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors.



Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is slightly less dense than air. It is toxic to humans when encountered in concentrations above about 35-ppm (parts per million) the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can include: Dull headache, Weakness, Dizziness. Nausea, Vomiting. Shortness of breath, Confusion and Blurred vision, and can be caused by a blocked vent, faulty propane boilers, fireplaces, etcetera, therefore it is recommended that a carbon monoxide detector is installed outside sleeping areas.

Exits.

Consider how people will escape from a room or apartment in an emergency. Every room or apartment requires adequate exits to permit unobstructed escape from the building, Due to the lack of storage in a lot of accommodations here in Big White some of you will be forced to store your possessions such as skis, snowboards and suitcases in areas of escape, such as-

-hallways, in front of exit doors, on or under staircases - etcetera, this can be potentially dangerous in the event of a fire, therefore it is essential that all exit doors, hallways and staircases are kept clear at all times, also ensure that all windows and exterior doors open fully and easily with easy access to the buildings exterior.

Fire Escape Plan.

In a fire emergency everyone must know what to do and where to go, some larger buildings may have a fire safety plan in place, so ask your landlord if one is available, and ask to see it to look at the buildings safety features. In smaller buildings without a fire safety plan it is essential that you know where your exits are, there should always be two ways out of a building, one alternative way out of a building can be a window, so it is essential that windows that can be used for egress are not locked and that they open easily. Some landlords install security bars on windows, ensure that any window that can be used for egress does not have these security bars installed. **If your smoke alarm sounds** leave the building as quickly as possible and go to your meeting/assembly area, do not re-enter the building for any reason until it has been declared safe to do so, **Once outside the building call 911** using your cell phone or a neighbor's phone.

Social Gatherings.

Parties are as much a part of life in Big White as skiing and working. Most parties are harmless fun, but with the consumption of alcohol combined with cooking or smoking can create a serious fire risk. To minimize risk of a fire during a party, avoid overcrowding. The more people attending the party, the easier it is to lose control of the situation. Encourage guests to smoke outside. Consider putting up **"No Smoking"** signs that direct guests to an outside smoking area. Refrain from burning candles during parties as they can easily be knocked over or ignite nearby combustibles. Keep coats and boots away from baseboard heaters, also please remember that you have neighbors, and remember that there is a noise bylaw in Big White!