

BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY
Mayor James M. Davis

Robert Kubert
Director of Public
Safety

Keith Weaver
Chief of Department



***FIRE* DEPARTMENT**

Dear Parent / Guardian,

On behalf of Mayor Davis and Public Safety Director Kubert, I would like to offer you some helpful hints to reduce the possibility of fire in your home and to minimize the impact if you are a victim of a fire.

Fire prevention starts the minute you place a deposit on your new living environment. For residents who are homeowners or who are renting properties in our community, we would like to offer the following information:

1. Prior to moving in, ask the landlord who is the responsible party for the smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in the apartment.
2. How old are the smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and when were they last checked, serviced, or replaced? (The new battery operated, self-contained units are good for 10 years. However, they should be tested monthly for maximum efficiency and safety).
3. If there is an older detector in the space, check the manufacturing date located on the unit, and then immediately change the battery.
4. Also request that the landlord install a new self-contained smoke alarm / carbon monoxide detector before taking possession of the apartment.

Renters insurance can offer additional protection for our residents. Landlords may also require this protection before you sign a lease. As Mayor Davis covered in his weekly message “Dealing with a Fire” in *The Bayonne Community News* on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, “*Renters insurance is very helpful, because it covers the replacement value of goods that are lost in fires and other emergencies. Without an insurance pay-out, most people do not have the money on hand to replace everything that might have perished in a fire.*”

Inquiring about and acquiring renters insurance is an easy thing to do. Many tenants say they have no idea how to go about obtaining renters insurance or who can recommend a company. The easiest thing to do is contact or visit insurance vendors to determine the best coverage and premium cost.

Fire safety continues after moving into a new home or apartment. Plan two ways out of your dwelling and set up a meeting place outside and away from the fire or emergency. Keep your meeting place on the same side of the street as your home and a few addresses away. This will save time, provide accountability for all the members of your family, and assist emergency responders at the scene. Accountability is paramount, and in an emergency situation, every second counts for safety.

To summarize, when renting a home or an apartment:

- Make sure smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are installed and working properly.**
- Seek out and acquire renters insurance to protect your home and belongings.**
- Remember: Every Second Counts - Plan two ways out and designate a meeting area for members of your family.**

Sincerely,

Keith Weaver

Chief of Department