

## Fire Prevention Resources at No Cost

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I wish all members would do the same because fires are one of HARRP's most troublesome claims. Most of HARRP's fire claims are caused by tenants. Tenant caused fires breakdown into several categories: stove top fires (the most common fire), children with matches or other incendiary devices (the costliest fires); smoker carelessness; flammables; combustibles too close to heaters and candle fires.

Members can use the free fire prevention resources listed below to increase fire safety awareness of tenants, which reduces the chances of fires.

At these sites, housing authority can obtain free fire safety: flyers, posters, door knob hangers, activity books, coloring books, and other free publications can be ordered or downloaded at:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/index.cfm>

You can find fire fact sheets addressing: smokers, Adults over 50 and parents with babies can be downloaded at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns>

FEMA's US Fire Administration Division offers: free fire safety posters in English and Spanish, a free 15 minute fire safety video geared toward families with children, free fire safety activities book for children [which can be downloaded and reproduced and used to teach children in fun ways], a free fire safety Sesame Street coloring book [which can be copied and distributed to children], free fire safety door knob hangers and free fire safety booklets in English and Spanish.

You can order the video called "Prevent the Unthinkable" at:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/applications/publications/display.cfm?sc=318&mc=23&ol=>

HARRP has available loss control funds that can be awarded for fire prevention activities. Members can apply for up to \$2,500 for loss control activities directly related preventing a claim that HARRP covers, such as tenant fires.

These funds are limited and are available until diminished each year; you can obtain HARRP's loss prevention funding application at:

<http://www.harrp.com/forms/MemberProposalFundingCriteriaandApplication.pdf>

The National Fire Prevention Association has dozens of Fire prevention facts sheets that can be printed reproduced and distributed to tenants and children provided the user attribute the source. Please use the following: "Reproduced from NFPA's website, © NFPA (year)."

NFPA does not grant permission for its content to be displayed on other Web sites.

Below is the link to their fact sheet that can be used as tenant handouts:

<http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1979&itemID=46567&URL=Safety%20Information/Safety%20tip%20sheets>

Fire Safety Checklist for People with Disabilities: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/disability/fswy23.shtm>

A housing authority applied to HARRP for a loss control funding to have the local fire department train a group of residents who went from door to door promoting fire safety. The funds will be used to purchase and mail fire safety fliers and brochures, start a newsletter and meeting snacks to promote fire safety with children as well as seniors. The youth workers were provided with fire prevention tee shirts. We have funds available for loss control each year but few housing authorities apply for activities like these that reduce their HARRP, covered claims.

Other things a housing authority can do to curtail tenant caused fires are::

Install vent-a-hood fire suppressions systems or stove top Safe-T-Elements, The manufacturer offers HARRP members discount coupons <http://www.harrp.com/safetelements%20order.pdf>

Create a tenant fire safety newsletter

When visiting an occupied unit, inspect electrical cords, smoke detectors and flammables near heaters. Require tenants to view a short fire safety video before meeting with your staff on the day of their annual review.

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Make arrangements with the local fire department and schools to promote fire safety each year.  
Insert fire prevention information, available free, from the U.S. Fire Administration's web site, into rent statement envelopes.  
Have Fire Safety booklets and flyers to hand out at tenant meetings or to be distributed by maintenance when responding to work orders.  
Arrange with your local fire department for a pre-agreed location where they can find a list of senior tenants with mobility problems.  
Conduct fire drills and encourage families to plan two escape routes from their unit.  
Conduct a fire prevention poster contest for children in the developments  
Use coloring books from fire prevention websites for use by development children at housing authority head starts or after-school events.  
Invite your local fire department to come with its fire trucks to after school programs and educate small children on fire safety. This can be arranged by calling the Vancouver Fire Marshall.

Regarding fire education for small children, Disney produced two inexpensive, short videos featuring Donald Duck to provide fire education to small children. These are titled Donald's Fire Drill (16 minutes) and Donald's Fire Survival Plan (12 minutes). Each cost \$29.00 and you can order them on-line at <http://www.dep-store.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=77C33VL00>

I am always available to assist with your fire and other loss control endeavors.

Sincerely,

*Al Alvarez*

Al Alvarez  
Director of Risk Management  
[al@harrp.com](mailto:al@harrp.com)  
Phone: 360-574-9035, Ext. 104