

## Atwater Fire Department FAQ's

### WHAT KIND OF SMOKE ALARM SHOULD I BUY?

The Fire Department cannot recommend specific manufacturers. We do recommend that electrical smoke alarms (hard wired), be U.L. approved, and that any battery operated smoke alarm be U.L. approved.

### WHERE SHOULD I INSTALL THE SMOKE ALARM?

- A)..Between each sleeping area and the remainder of the building.
- B)..Where a sleeping area is served by a hallway, install the detector in the hall.
- C)..Install the detector on or near the ceiling in accordance with the manufacturers installation instructions.

### MY SMOKE ALARM GOES OFF A LOT. WHAT IS WRONG WITH IT?

**First** clean the unit with a vacuum cleaner. Dust particles can and often do set off false alarms.

**Second** the unit may need to be relocated. It could be too close to the kitchen, bathroom, heat register or it could be defective

### MY SMOKE ALARM BEEPS. WHAT IS WRONG WITH IT?

The problem is usually a weak or improper battery. Replace with a fresh battery as recommended by the manufacturer.

### WHAT TYPE AND SIZE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER SHOULD I HAVE?

The recommended extinguisher for home use is a "Dry Chemical" type, generally type 2A-10BC.

### WHERE SHOULD I STORE MY FIRE EXTINGUISHER?

Store your extinguisher away from the stove, near the entrance to the kitchen. Mount the extinguisher on the bracket that is supplied with the extinguisher. In your workshop, mount the extinguisher away from power tools, near the exit.

**CAUTION: Never put yourself or anyone else in jeopardy by trying to extinguish a fire which may be too large ... Sound an alarm to other occupants, leave the building closing all doors behind you, call the Fire Department (9-1-1). Go to your designated meeting place and wait for the Firefighters to arrive. NEVER GO BACK INTO A BURNING BUILDING!**

### ARE THE CONTENTS OF A DRY CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHER TOXIC?

No. Dry chemical extinguishers are usually filled with Mono-ammonium phosphate. This is a non-toxic substance, however, large amounts of this powder in the air can cause

breathing difficulties. Leave the area after discharging a dry chemical fire extinguisher.  
**Call the Fire Department (9-1-1) .. to ensure that the fire is completely extinguished**

#### HOW OFTEN SHOULD I HAVE MY EXTINGUISHER RECHARGED?

After each use, or if the gauge shows a loss of pressure.

#### HOW DO YOU USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER?

Always follow manufacturers instructions as listed on the extinguisher.

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Operate the extinguisher in an upright position
- Remove the safety pin
- Aim at the base of the fire from the distance recommended by the manufacturer
- Squeeze the handle
- Use a sweeping motion

#### WHERE CAN I BUY OR SERVICE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER?

Refer to the "Yellow Pages" of the phone directory for servicing companies. Most hardware outlets and extinguisher servicing companies have extinguishers for sale which are suitable for home use.

#### WHERE SHOULD I STORE MY PROPANE TANK?

All propane tanks should be stored *outside*, protected from the elements and at least 10 feet from any openings to the building. (basement windows, doors, vents etc...)

#### HOW DO I DISPOSE OF AN OLD PROPANE TANK?

Take all expired propane tanks back to an outlet that refills them. Do not keep them around your home or garage and do not include them with your regular refuse pick-up.

#### CAN I HAVE A PROPANE BAR-B-QUE ON MY BALCONY IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING?

NO! Propane fuelled bar-b-que's shall not be operated or stored on the balcony or anywhere within the building.

#### HOW HIGH DO THE ATWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT LADDERS REACH?

Approximately 4 storeys (depending on the proximity to the building) for Aerial ladders and is dependent on how close the apparatus can get to the building.

#### HOW LONG SHOULD EMERGENCY POWER LAST?

It is dependent on the building and how the emergency power is supplied. Most newer buildings have emergency generators which will give continuous uninterrupted lighting in stairwells and hallways and other buildings will have battery operated systems which provide lighting for a defined time period. Under the Uniform Building Code, emergency power must last long enough for occupants to safely leave the building. (1/2 to 2 hours)

**IS THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM CONNECTED DIRECTLY TO THE FIRE STATION?**

**NO!** Some buildings are monitored by private companies which will notify the Fire Department when the fire alarm is activated. It is important for people to call from the building and not assume that someone else has advised the Fire Department. (9-1-1)

**DO YOU HAVE THE CHILD-ALERT STICKERS TO INDICATE A CHILD'S BEDROOM?**

No. In our "Plan to Get Out Alive" program, we encourage everyone to plan their own escape in advance and to practice it regularly. The "Tot-Finder" Sticker program was ineffective because people were moving and leaving the stickers on the windows, using the stickers on all of their windows, and putting them on windows where their pets were being kept. This made the indicator a very unreliable source of information for the firefighters.

**CAN DISPOSABLE PROPANE CYLINDERS BE STORED INDOORS?**

No. Like larger cylinders, they should be stored outside or in a separate shed not within 10 feet of any opening to the building. (Basement windows, doors, vents etc...)