



TKE Fire Safety Tips

- Replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old. Smoke alarms don't last forever. Having functioning smoke alarms cuts your risk of dying in a fire in half.
- Check chapter house to make sure that house doors, fire escapes, and stairwells are free from blockage.
- Fire doors must not have key deadbolts or double locks. Fire doors must also never be blocked open.
- Check for potential hazards on a regular basis. Consider hair dryers, sound systems, electric space heaters, lamp cords, use of many extension cords, and overloaded circuits.
- Doors into stairways at each floor level must be kept closed.
- Exit doors of rooms accommodating fifty or more people should always open outward. These doors should never block a traffic path to safety.
- Look for signs of wear or operational problems on any small appliance.
- Furnaces should be checked yearly by a competent heating company for malfunctions or carbon monoxide.
- Never use candles in windows near drapes.
- Smoking in chapter houses is a major fire hazard. Members should check for lighted cigarettes and candles in the house after a party has occurred.
- Make sure non-burnable surfaces are on top of chests and other furniture where curling irons and cigarettes might be left.
- Have a demonstration at a chapter meeting on how to use a fire extinguisher. Make sure that you have the proper type of fire extinguisher.
- Exit signs must be placed where needed.
- If property is equipped with a fire hose, storage should be checked for a hose rot. The hose should be dry, properly racked and should have a nozzle.
- Never store motor vehicles, lawn mowers, motorcycles or snowmobiles in the building. Do not store gas for motors inside the building.
- Store flammable cleaning fluids only in approved safety cans and in storage closets.
- Store paint in metal cans in closed metal cabinets away from the furnace or hot water tank.
- Check that motors and cooling coils in refrigeration units are clean
- Make sure that outlets are not overloaded with plugs from the TV, computer, printer, video game units and stereos.
- Be especially vigilant about portable heaters. Never place a space heater too close to a bed. Heaters should be at least 3 feet from anything flammable.