Fire Safety at Your Home Away from Home

Peer-to-peer hospitality services, such as Airbnb, Vacation Rentals by Owner and other types of vacation rentals are not regulated in the same way as hotels. Requirements vary widely across jurisdictions. Act as your own safety advocate and know before you go. Be sure the following safety measures are addressed.

SAFETY TIPS

- ✔ Working smoke alarms are in every sleeping room. They are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home.
- ✔ Working smoke alarms are interconnected, if possible. When one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ✔ Portable fire extinguishers are in the home and are easy to reach.
- ✔ Working carbon monoxide alarms are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home and in other locations as required by laws, codes, or standards.
- ✔ The owner has posted a floor plan. It notes all escape routes and exits and provides emergency contact information.
- ✔ Everyone knows the address of the home.
- ✔ Everyone staying in the home has identified two ways out of every room and how to escape in an emergency.
- ✔ All doors and windows that lead outside are able to be opened.
- ✔ An outside meeting place has been chosen. It is a safe distance away from the home.
- ✔ Everyone knows how to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone from outside.
- ✔ If smoking is allowed, a smoking area has been designated and is well away from the structure. Deep, sturdy ashtrays have been provided.
- ✔ All pathways are free and clear of tripping hazards.
- ✔ Electrical outlets are free from multiple cords and adaptors.
- ✔ The stovetop is clear. Anything that can catch fire is not near the stovetop, such as curtains and towels.

WINDOW AND DOOR ALERT!

Be on the lookout for rooms with tiny windows. These are too small to serve as a means of escape.

Security bars on doors and windows can trap people in a fire. Make sure any security bars have quick-release devices. Tools, keys, or special efforts should not be needed to open them.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Peer-to-peer hospitality services are not regulated in the same way as hotels. Requirements vary widely across jurisdictions. Do your homework before making a reservation. Check online to see your travel destination's regulations for rental properties. Ask your host if the property meets the regulations. Discuss other safety concerns you may have.

Check the forecast in case of storms that could cause power outages; assure the property has equipment (batteries, lanterns, etc.) in the event of a power outage.

NFPA
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

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