



Headlines

- **Calgary Residents Displaced By Fire**
- **Fire Department Responds to Blaze**
- **Fire at Southwest Condo Building**
- **Condo Building Evacuated Due to Fire**
- **Family Without Home Due to Fire**

The Risks

Glamis Terrace is a beautiful but aging complex. The complex is 40 years old and wood frame constructed.

Although constructed with building code of the time, times have changed. There have been improvements in electrical codes, fire wall requirements and in requirements for smoke and carbon monoxide detection.

The Causes

Kitchen

Your kitchen is one of the leading causes of house fires. Leaving food to cook while unattended, placing combustibles such as paper towels near elements or having clothing near hot elements, frying with hot oil, setting the temperature too high, and faulty appliances can all cause a devastating fire.

Heating

Heating is another of the top causes of home fires. It includes electric fireplaces, gas fired fireplaces, wood burning fireplaces, portable heaters and forced air furnaces.

Chimneys and Fireplaces

Chimneys and fireplaces are a leading cause of house fires especially during the winter months.

Faulty Wiring

As the complex ages wiring can degrade and connections can corrode and become unstable. Over the 40 plus years for Glamis Terrace, some owners may have made non-inspected upgrades to the wiring which may or may not be a source of overheating.

Smoking

Smoking, although on the decline, still causes thousands of fire each year across Canada. Accidentally dropped cigarettes, or falling asleep while smoking, can result in fire spreading through the whole house.



Prevention

Kitchen

Approximately 50% of home fires begin in the kitchen, making it the most common cause of residential fires. It is important that the kitchen not be unattended while food is cooking. Spills, especially grease and oils, must be cleaned up immediately. A fire extinguisher rated for kitchens should be nearby.

Heating

While furnaces can cause fires in a home, space heaters and fireplaces are the common cause of fires. Space heaters should never be left unattended and must be kept away from flammable items. At Glamis Terrace many owners have replaced the original furnace with modern efficient furnaces. In any case, furnaces should be checked and cleaned by a qualified heat technician at least once yearly. In this way the burners and gas supplies can be checked to ensure they are running safely.

Chimneys and Fireplaces

Wood burning fire places are not as common as they once were and as a result we don't hear of fireplace fires as often. Most Units at Glamis Terrace do have wood burning fireplaces and therefore a high potential for fire. Fires from fireplaces do occur and can cause serious damage. It is recommended that your chimney and flue be checked for creosote buildup yearly. When using the fireplace be sure to use only properly seasoned, dried wood and ensure the fire screen is closed while the fire burns.

Faulty Wiring

The signs are disturbing. A persistent burning smell you cannot find. A breaker keeps tripping for no apparent reason. There is charring or discoloured outlets or switches. Lights dim for no apparent reason. The best prevention measure is to have a qualified electrician check your electrical system at least once every five years.

Smoking

Cigarettes and smoking are not only toxic, they are still one of the leading causes of house fires in Alberta. All smokers need to be responsible. Put cigarette butts, whether inside or outside the home, in a non-combustible container.

At Glamis Terrace, our by-laws specifically prohibit smoking anywhere on the common property by residents or visitors. Smoking is only allowed within the unit or in privacy areas (back yard).

NEVER dispose of smoking materials in planters. Planters contain highly combustible materials.

Most importantly, prevent the most dangerous situation by never smoking in bed!



Insurance

So important for Condo Living, WHY?

The Corporation Insurance covers:

- The buildings in our complex;
- All common areas;
- All contents of the common areas;
- Corporation Liabilities;
- The basics of your unit as originally built.

Your personal insurance needs to cover:

- Your personal property and contents;
- Your personal liability;
- Any upgrades to your unit since built;
- Living expenses in an emergency;
- Corporation Policy Deductable.



General Safety Measures

Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors are the most important safety feature you can have. Smoke detectors alert you to potential fire and sounds a loud alarm. For maximum safety, there should be a smoke detector in the hallway leading to the bedrooms. In addition, each floor of your unit, preferably near the bottom of a stairway should have a detector. Most importantly, there should be a detector near, but not in the kitchen. Installing one in the kitchen can be a source of many false alarms.

To ensure detectors are working, be sure to press the test button at least once a month.

IMPORTANT: Smoke alarm batteries must be replaced once a year or more often if a low battery signal is heard. In addition, the active detection electronics in a smoke detector are only good for 10 years.

You should replace detectors every 10 years. This includes the hard wired detector installed near the bedrooms at Glamis Terrace.

Replacement of this detector should be done by a qualified electrician.

Carbon Monoxide

Although they may look and sound similar, CO alarms and smoke alarms are designed to detect two separate, distinct hazards. To protect your family from both hazards it is important to install UL or CSA listed CO alarms and smoke detectors.

Follow the installation instructions found in the manufacturer's booklet that accompanies the detector. Proper installation and care is an important factor in receiving optimum performance.

Fire Triangle



Ingredients required for fire

We can't control the oxygen

We can't control the fuel

We MUST control the heat!

The Basics

- Always unplug unused electronics and appliances.
- Have fire extinguishers in your home, especially in the kitchen.
- Stay in the kitchen whenever you are broiling, frying or cooking.
- Only smoke outside and never in bed.
- Replace damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Keep space heaters away from combustible objects.
- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors throughout your home.
- Have fireplaces inspected annually.
- Never leave candles burning in an empty room.

IMPORTANT

Only propane or natural gas barbeques are allowed at Glamis Terrace. These cooking devices must be at least 18 inches from any wall or fence while being used.

Fire pits of any nature and wood fired barbeques are definitely not permitted!



Escape Plans

Your ability to get out of your home during a fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and in advanced planning. Fire can spread rapidly leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape. This is where smoke alarms alert you, so you have time to leave before the fire spreads. Never assume an alarm is false. Engage your escape plan anytime an alarm is heard. There will be plenty of time to check the validity of the alarm after everyone is safely outside.

Creating an Escape Plan

Gather everyone in your household together and make a plan for escaping should fire strike. Plan how you might leave from each room in your home and especially the bedrooms. At Glamis Terrace the bedrooms are on the top level and escaping through the outside doors would require passing by the kitchen, a top cause of home fires.

As you plan your escape route make sure the route you plan is clear of obstructions and windows can be opened easily. While difficult at Glamis Terrace, windows may be the only means of escape and the only means for fire department rescue if needed.

Be sure to choose a meeting place outside to ensure everyone is accounted for after leaving.

If there are children or older adults, make sure someone is assigned to assist them in case of an emergency. Assign a backup person as well in case the designated person is not home during the emergency.

Be sure any visitors or guests at your home are aware of your escape plan. This is most important when children are attending sleep overs at a friend's home.

Once everyone is out of your home, immediately call "911" for help. At Glamis Terrace it is also important to alert the residents of your block of the fire. Pound on their doors and ring their doorbells until someone is available to advise of the situation.

Once you are safely out of your home, stay out! Under no circumstances should anyone ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing inform the fire department dispatcher when you call.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year so everyone remains familiar with it.

With proper smoke detectors in place the chance of escape is very high, as long as it is done quickly and efficiently through the use of your escape plan. Should the fire have spread so quickly that escape is not possible, close the door to the room you are in and place a towel or similar item at the base of the door. As mentioned earlier, fire needs oxygen to continue burning and by sealing your room, the oxygen in that room is not available to the fire. Also, by sealing the room it limits the amount of smoke and dangerous gasses from entering.