



Office Of The Fire Marshal
Town of Seymour

1 First Street
Seymour, Connecticut 06483

TO ALL BALANCE ROCK RESIDENTS

The Seymour Fire Marshal's Office periodically inspects your buildings in your complex. However, we do not inspect the inside of your units as they are individually owned similar to a single family home.

Your safety in the event of a fire is paramount. Each of you can assist in helping yourself increase the fire safety inside your own unit and within the building you live in. I am requesting that you periodically perform the following activities.

1. Inspect and test your smoke alarms in your unit. As a minimum, you should have at least one working smoke alarm in the hallway outside of your bedroom(s). Adding a smoke alarm to each bedroom and in the living room would substantially increase smoke alarm coverage in your unit. Every year working smoke alarms have saved countless lives in the United States. Don't forget to change your batteries every 6 months. If your smoke alarm is older than 10 years, it is supposed to be replaced. Smoke alarms older than 10 years have up to a 50% failure rate during a fire event.
2. Periodically ensure your unit's fire door to the building corridor or stairway completely self closes and positively latches upon release at any position. If a fire occurs in a unit and this door does not perform this activity, it **will** result in smoke and fire very quickly entering the corridor or stairway blocking the exit for occupants. If your door needs repairs to make it self-close and latch, please take the necessary steps, as soon as possible, to have it repaired.
3. The buildings fire alarm systems and unit's individual smoke alarms are not monitored. The fire code does not require it based on your building's size and other factors. If the building's fire alarm sounds or you hear a constant beeping of a smoke detector within a unit, please dial 911 to summon the fire department. Do not hesitate to call. If a fire really does exist, every second that goes by a fire will substantially grow.
4. Finally, a recent fire code change has made any type of a grill to have, use or store on a balcony of a building having more than 2 units, a fire code violation. This includes any grill using propane, charcoal, liquid fuel or electricity. Even a grill on the ground level is illegal if it is under any overhanging portion or within 10 feet of any structure. I encourage all residents to move forward with the eventual goal of meeting the fire code regarding grills.

If any one has any questions, please feel free to contact the Office. I know that the property manager will assist when and where he can in order to make the complex Code complaint and fire safe.

Sincerely,

Paul Wetowitz
Seymour Fire Marshal
April 5 2016