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12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

Your fire department's twist on this familiar Holiday Carol could prevent a tragedy in your home.

Lyrics to Live by. Sing along to the 12 days of Christmas.

{1} On the first day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me... Don't forget to water the tree.

{2} On the second day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Check the Christmas lights,

{3} On the third day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me... Test or replace your smoke alarm,

{4} On the fourth day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Install alarms for CO

{5} On the fifth day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Home Es-

cape Plan!

{6} On the sixth day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Use extension cord wisely,

{7} On the seventh day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me, Space heaters need space,

{8} On the eighth of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Blow out all the candles,

{9} On the ninth day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me, Keep matches away from children,

{10} On the tenth day of Christmas, Fire Chief said to me...A watchful eye when cooking,

{11} On the eleventh day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Smoking outside

only,

{12} On the twelfth day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Take care when drinking

On the twelfth day of Christmas, The Fire Chief said to me...Take care when drinking, Smoking outside only, A watchful eye when cooking, Keep matches away from children, Blow out all the candles, Space heaters need space, use extension cords wisely, home escape plan! Install alarms for CO, Test or replace your smoke alarm, Check the Christmas lights, And don't forget to water the tree.

Replace Smoke alarms every 10 years and CO alarms every 7-10 years, depending on the brand. Prepare and practice a Home Escape Plan.



*Merry Christmas and
happy New Years
2018!!*

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With New Years right after Christmas, please designate a sober driver or make other arrangements. Ride, share, a taxi or whatever it takes please don't get behind the wheel if you've had anything to drink.

NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY SHOULD REASSURE SOCIAL HOUSING OCCUPANTS

QUESTION

I live in what our board of directors calls a federal co-op. For months now, there have been discussions about the upcoming end of our operating agreement, and what that will mean for the co-op's ability to continue to charge below-market rents to people who cannot afford to pay market rents, including me. I tried to find out by looking at the new National Housing Strategy at CNCH's website www.placetocallhome.ca, but I didn't see anything about federal co-ops, or even much about social housing. Should I still be worried?

ANSWER

Technically in a housing co-op, what members pay to cover the mortgage, property taxes and operating costs is a monthly "housing charge." Sometimes, some units are occupied by tenants who pay rent to the co-op, just as tenants pay rent to for-profit landlords.

In the new National Housing Strategy, the term "community housing" is used for what has been known as "social housing." In Ottawa, community housing includes:

- Ottawa Community Housing
- non-profit or co-operative housing supported and supervised by the city

- non-profit co-operative housing supported by the federal government (known as federal co-ops)

Many people in community housing are concerned about the end of their operating agreements. The operating agreements have been ending on a rolling basis as the 35th or 50th anniversary of the agreement start dates has occurred. Many more operating agreements are to end over the next ten years.

The end of operating agreements coincides with the end of the original mortgages, and also means the end of government subsidies for housing charges or rents. Many social housing advocates argued that the projects would be self-sustaining (without further subsidies) once the mortgages were paid off, but for many properties that did not work out because the member incomes were lower – and repair and building renewal costs were higher – than expected.

The provinces and municipalities were also concerned that they would have to pay 100 per cent of the cost of extending the operating agreements.

The National Housing Strategy makes it clear that the federal government will

continue its support for all types of community housing, while providing new flexibility for them to re-finance their projects.

In addition, the federal government says it will consult with the associates representing federal co-ops in order to design a new program of rental assistance with the goal of maintaining the current stock of such housing. That many mean the assistance to provide housing units at below-market rents will be delivered in a different way, but the funding should still be available, either to the federal co-op or to the residents like you.

In a strategy, the government also says it plans to roll out a separate program of portable rental assistance to be paid directly to low-income renters who are currently paying market-level rents in city-supervised social housing or to residential landlords. Many details of the planned Canada Housing Benefit still need to be decided between the federal government and the provinces. As a result, that new separate program is not expected to start until 2020.

SOURCE: BY DICKIE & LYMAN LLP WHO PRACTICE LANDLORD/TENANT LAW AND OTHER AREAS OF LAW

BE EMERGENCY READY

🔗 Know the risks

🔗 Make a plan

🔗 Prepare an emergency kit

**Basic Emergency Kit Items
(to remain comfortable for at least 72 hours)**

🔗 Water at least 3L of bottled

water per person per day

🔗 Canned foods and a manual can-opener

🔗 Flashlights and batteries

🔗 First aid kit

🔗 Extra keys and cash

🔗 Important documents (keep in waterproof container or sealed bag)

🔗 Sanitation supplies and basic toiletries

🔗 Prescription medications

🔗 Blanket or sleeping bags



HOLIDAY COOKING SAFETY TIPS

Christmas is the holiday that brings people together with the family dinner being the highlight of the day.

Use these tips to help keep your holiday safe.

Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking. Most fires in the kitchen occur because food is left unattended.

Keep the cooking range free of clutter. Even though you have myriad dishes to prepare, don't overload a cook top with too many pots and pans. Trying to cook all your dishes at once could cause grease to accidentally spill onto a range top and cause a fire.

Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy while cooking. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on a flame-resistant oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until the food has cooled.

When removing lids on hot pans, tilt them away from you to protect your face and hands from steam. If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and

keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.

Never wear loose fitting clothing when cooking. Long, open sleeves could ignite and catch fire from a gas flame or a hot burner. Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. If you have long hair, be sure to tie it back.

Keep smoke alarms connected while cooking. Smoke alarms can save lives. Make sure smoke alarms are installed and working.

Unplug small appliances that aren't in use. Not only will you save the energy, but you will also avoid the potential dangers if they were to be turned on accidentally.

Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen in case of emergency and know how to use it. Make sure the fire extinguisher is UL listed and rated for grease and electrical fires.

Avoid using a turkey fryer. Because turkey fryers pose a number of distinct safety concerns, including

burn and fire hazards. If you still choose to fry your turkey, follow these safety guidelines recommended by Consumer Safety Product Commission:

{1} Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.

{2} Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures

{3} Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or any structure that can catch fire

{4} Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns

{5} COVER bare skin when adding or removing food

{6} Check the oil temperature frequently

{7} If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF

{8} If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire with water

Above all, just apply your own common sense around safety in the kitchen. If in doubt about something, always err on the side of caution.

12 SAFER DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

{1} Ensure that doors and windows are properly locked when out shopping.

{2} Shop with friends and relatives instead of going alone.

{3} Park in a well-lit, well-trafficked area at the parking lot of stores and malls.

{4} Supervise children at all times when shopping.

{5} Avoid wearing jewelries, talking

over the phone and texting in a crowded area.

{6} Keep shopping bags, valuables, purses, and wallets close to you.

{7} Be careful w/social media: Checking in at stores lets potential criminals know you are not at home.

{8} Watch out for friendly strangers, they might distract you or put you in a compromising situation.

{9} During house parties: Never leave anything of value out in plain sight.

{10} During social events: Don't get too drunk as you could be an easy target.

{11} At home: Avoid placing gifts where they can be seen through the window.

{12} At home: Avoid leaving Christmas lights turned on overnight to avoid fire overheating.



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

PARMESAN SPINACH BALLS

"These delicious little appetizers are always a hit. Serve warm or at room temperature with a good quality mustard. These can be frozen unbaked and popped into the oven when unexpected guests pop in."

Ingredients

2 (10 ounce) packages frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained

2 cups Italian-style seasoned bread crumbs

1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 cup butter, melted

4 small green onion, finely chopped

4 eggs, lightly beaten

salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175

degrees C).

In a medium bowl, mix the frozen chopped spinach, Italian-style seasoned bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, butter, green onion, eggs, salt and pepper. Shape the mixture into 1 inch balls.

Arrange the balls in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven 10 to 15 minutes, until lightly browned.

WHY DO PEOPLE DIE SHOVELING SNOW?

National Safety Council recommends the following tips to shovel safely.

- {} Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- {} Take it slow and stretch out before you begin.
- {} Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter.
- {} Push the snow rather than lifting it.
- {} If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.
- {} Lift with your legs, not your back.
- {} Do not work to the point of exhaustion.

Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. If you feel

tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately. A clear driveway is not worth your life.

Snow Blower Safety

Be safe with these tips from American Society for Surgery of the hand and the American Academy of Orthopedic.

- {} If the blower jams, turn it off.
- {} Keep your hands away from the moving parts.
- {} Do not drink alcohol and use the snow blower.
- {} Beware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space.
- {} Refuel your snow blower when it is off, never when it is running.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Keep informed - check the weather report before you go outside.

Dress for winter weather - frostbite can happen in less than a minute so cover as much exposed skin as possible.

Stay visible - wear bright-coloured clothing in snowy weather.

Keep warm - stay dry and dress in layers that can be easily removed.

Walk safe - winter boots should be comfortable with a wide and low heel.

Clear your path - keep your home walkways free of ice and snow.

Plan your route - know the heated buildings in your neighbourhood i.e. library, malls, etc.

Stay active and safe - watch out for hazards.

