Safety in Your Stairwell – A Shared Responsibility

To ensure the best possible security for all residents, it's crucial that we follow some simple but important rules together. Your effort makes a big difference for your own safety and that of your neighbors.

Keep Common Areas and Escape Routes Clear

We encourage all residents to keep common areas such as stairwells, landings, and basement hallways completely free of stored items. This includes **all belongings** – from bicycles, strollers, and toys to pet supplies, shoes, trash, and furniture.

Why is this important?

- **Clear Passage for Emergency Services:** In the event of a fire or other emergency, rescue personnel need to be able to access the area quickly and easily. Stored items can block escape routes and delay rescue efforts, which can have fatal consequences.
- **Reduced Smoke Spread:** Materials like cardboard boxes, clothes, plastic, and strollers are highly flammable and can quickly produce thick smoke. If a fire breaks out, these items will contribute to severe smoke development that can spread throughout the stairwell, making it difficult for residents to find their way to safety.
- **Use the Bike Cellars:** Remember that strollers, walkers, and similar items can be stored in the bike cellars.

Keep Doors Closed

It is important that all doors in the building are kept closed – this includes doors to the stairwells, your own apartment in case of a fire, and especially the doors in the basement hallways, as they are fire doors.

Why?

- **Containment of Fire and Smoke:** Closed doors act as a barrier, delaying the spread of fire and smoke. This gives residents more time to get to safety and minimizes damage.

Responsibility for Your Own Safety in the Apartment

Even though we do a lot to secure the common areas, it’s also important that you take responsibility for safety in your own home.

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We recommend that you have the following equipment in your apartment:

- **A Functional Smoke Alarm:** A smoke alarm is your earliest warning in case of a fire and can be crucial for you and your family to get out in time. **Test it regularly!** At least once a month is recommended.
- **A Fire Extinguisher and/or a Fire Blanket:** This equipment can help you put out a small fire before it grows, or contain it until the fire department arrives. There are different types of fire extinguishers designed for different types of fires.

  Be aware that fire extinguishers must be maintained to ensure they work correctly when you need them.

Important Consequences

It's important that we all follow these rules, as fire authorities can make unannounced inspections. If the conditions are not in order, it can result in fines for the housing association. Furthermore, failure to comply with fire regulations can also affect whether insurance covers damages in the event of an accident.

By following these simple guidelines, you actively contribute to creating a safe and secure environment for everyone in the housing association. Thank you for your cooperation!