



# WATERGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## Friendly Reminder: Fire and Smoke Alarms

Please keep in mind that the recently installed Fire Alarm equipment in the Common Area hallways, stairwells, and storage rooms is sensitive to smoke as well as heat and fire. These devices will detect any smoke that escapes from your unit and sound an evacuation alarm for the entire building. By contrast, the device above the entrance door inside of your unit is sensitive to heat only and will not activate because of smoke.

To avoid inadvertently setting off the common area hallway smoke detectors and life safety equipment please:

- ✓ Give your full attention when using your stove, microwave, or other kitchen appliance that may cause food to burn.
- ✓ If you do burn your food, the battery-powered smoke detector that should be in your unit should go off (Check this regularly to make sure that it has fresh batteries).
- ✓ **DO NOT OPEN YOUR UNIT DOOR!** This will activate the life safety equipment triggering a building-wide alarm.
- ✓ To allow smoke to escape your unit:
  - Turn on your stove fan
  - Open your unit windows and patio doors only to help the smoke escape.
  - Turn on any portable fans to help blow the smoke out of your unit through the windows or patio doors.

By keeping the above in mind, you will help prevent unnecessary stress and inconvenience to your building neighbors and minimize the additional expense of the Fire Department having to respond to a call for burnt food, etc. Please keep in mind that each time the Fire Department must respond to a burnt food call here at Watergate, restricts their ability to respond to a real emergency elsewhere.

In addition, please know that **only the Fire Department is able to silence the alarm.** Your attempts to contact Security during an alarm event serve only to interfere with their ability to expedite the Fire Department's investigation of the cause of the alarm thereby prolonging your discomfort.

The Association appreciates your cooperation in this matter.