

## Answer These 20 Questions *BEFORE* You Move In

1. Are smoke alarms installed correctly and working?
2. How old are smoke alarms?
3. How often are smoke alarms checked and batteries changed?
4. Are there at least two ways to exit your living space and your building?
5. Do the upper floors have a fire escape or ladder available for each bedroom?
6. Are the doors rated for fire (check for a metal plate in the frame)?
7. Are portable fire extinguishers available ?
8. Were the portable fire extinguishers tested within the past year?
9. Is a sprinkler system installed?
10. Is the electrical wiring adequate?
11. Is the building regularly inspected by the local fire department or college safety personnel?
12. What is the owner's policy and method for correcting safety problems in the building?
13. Has there ever been a fire in the building? If so, identify the cause. You may need to call the local fire department to request this information.
14. Does the residence have a gas or electric stove/oven?
15. Do you know how to use appliances correctly?
16. Is a carbon monoxide detector installed?
17. Did the school recommend the unit for student housing?
18. Is the owner a member in good standing in a landlord/tenant association?
19. Has the city or college received safety complaints regarding this housing?
20. Do you have renter's insurance?



-Contact the City of Columbia Fire Department with any questions -  
-573-874-7556-