

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, MANHATTAN
Public Safety Committee Meeting

December 7, 2016 MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Arlene Schulman, Chair; Javier Trejo, Ass't Chair; Natalie Espino; Richard Lewis; Isidro Medina; Rasheed Young, (Public Member)

Absent:

Katherine Diaz; Rud Morales; Carlos Suero

City Agencies:

NYPD's Transit District Three - Captain Brian O'Sullivan, Officer Damieon Frey

NYPD's 33rd Precinct: Sergeant Rodriguez; Officer Danny Guzman

NYPD's 34th Precinct; Lieutenant Salvatore Marchese

FDNY: Lt. John Errico of Fire Safety Education; Battalion Chief Brian Murphy

Manhattan DA's office: Joselinne Minaya

Public: Consuelo Laureano, HDFC Board Member; Isabel Martinez; Maryellen Novak

Minutes: Isidro Medina, Javier Trejo, Richard Lewis

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Arlene Schulman at 7:15 pm.

Lt. John Errico, Bureau of Gov. Affairs Fire Safety Education highlighted the following:

- His unit provides fire safety education sessions to schools, senior centers, community boards and other work places.
- **The winter holiday** season is when there are most fires reported.
- **Smoke detectors** have changed and have gotten better with technology. If your alarm still uses removable batteries, it is recommended to change the batteries twice a year. A new law in 2014 requires that all new and replacement smoke alarms should have a sealed 10 year battery that is non-replaceable and non-removable.
- **Electrical fires:** Extension cords are for temporary use. Make sure they are in good shape. Protect all electrical cords or appliances from damage. Do not run under carpets or rugs or around objects or hang from nails; prevent overloading; Make sure they are not hot, if they are - immediately unplug the cords from outlet; Unplug appliances such as hair dryers, toasters, oven, space heaters, air conditioners, etc.

- **Cooking:** Do not leave cooking unattended; Do not wear loose-fitting clothing; Do not pick up a pan that is on fire; Put pan handles towards the rear of the stoves and from children when in use.
- **Trees:** A real holiday tree or live requires one gallon of water per day; Make sure electric wires for lights and decorations are new and ways from any heated elements.
- **Escape Plan:** Call 911; If the fire is on your apartment, get everyone out; stay as low as you go; close all doors; do not use the elevator
- If there is someone with disability issues in the household, one can provide data to firehouse so that this information can be stored in their system.

People MUST call 911 in a smoke or fire emergency.

Smoke detectors are much more sophisticated and require less monitoring.

Always close any door behind you to prevent fire from spreading.

NYPD received basic fire safety training at the Police Academy.

In the history of NYC public schools, there has never been a life lost in a fire.

For Fire Safety Education programs and speakers for tenant groups, schools, businesses, one can contact 718-281-3870.

A link to the FDNY Winter and Holiday Safety Guide is here

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/fdny/downloads/pdf/fire-safety-education/winter_fire_safety_english.pdf

Uptown Fire Report for 30 day period prior to the CB meeting

55 structural fires

23 nonstructural fires

Increase in calls for possible gas leaks

458 non-medical emergencies

453 medical

No fire fatalities

Transit Police

Property Crimes

- Secure your property

- Be attentive

- Stay awake

- Best place to stand is in the middle of the car

- Watch for pickpockets - they often work in teams of three
- Watch for people bumping you
- Be mindful of where your wallet is at all times
- Don't stand by the doors on the trains

Crimes have not been violent.

34th Precinct

24% drop in crime

Robberies and Grand Larcenies

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Watch your wallet
- UPS and other packages have been left and taken from outside of apartments - ship your packages shipped to a more secure location and make arrangements for packages being picked up
- 181st Bridge - the Washington Bridge - has a robbery pattern from 10:30 pm to 2 am - four robberies occurred, units have been patrolling the bridge; suspects are three to four male Hispanics 18 to 24 years of age; Bronx precincts are patrolling the other side; one of the suspects was seen entering the housing projects in the 44th Precinct.

All police personnel impacted by president-elect. No specific unit set aside but people are pulled from different precincts.

Resolution on body cams to be discussed next time

Reports from the DA's office

Uptick in reporting of hate crimes - the numbers went up 157% from seven cases to 18 cases

The number to report hate crimes - which does not replace calling 911 - is 212-335-9000 or 9400

33rd Precinct

Crime is down except for domestic violence

Burglary pattern in sector Adam, perps coming through windows without gates on fire escapes. They kick in air conditioners closest to the fire escape to gain entry. They watch for lights and movement to see who is home and if they can see inside of windows, they know what valuables are there.

Crime Prevention Officers from both precincts can be requested to conduct in-home surveys.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.



Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Daniel A. Nigro, Fire Commissioner

FIRE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF NEW YORK

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

WINTER & HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

The winter season brings about many changes in your home. The heating system kicks on and you prepare for the holidays by decorating and cooking holiday feasts. The winter and holiday season is also the fire season. More than one-third of home fires occur during the months of December, January and February. Most fires and injuries are preventable by taking precautions that can make the difference between a happy and safe holiday or a holiday tragedy.

FIRE REMAINS THE MAJOR CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE HOME, WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND OLDER ADULTS MOST OFTEN THE VICTIMS.

Don't underestimate your risk of fire!

WHAT'S INSIDE

- SPACE HEATERS
- ELECTRIC BLANKETS
- ELECTRICAL CORDS
- CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY TIPS
- SMOKING MATERIALS
- CANDLES
- HOLIDAY COOKING
- CARBON MONOXIDE
- THE SILENT KILLER



For more fire safety tips call the FDNY Red Hot Line
www.nyc.gov/fdny
www.fdnymuseum.org

FUEL CONCERNS

Keeping warm in your home should fuel concerns for the safety of your family. During the months of December, January and February, home-heating equipment (central heating units, portable and fixed space heaters and fireplaces) is the second leading cause of home fires.

The major causes of home heating fires are poorly maintained systems, placing space heaters too close to combustible items and flaws in construction and installation of the heating units.

SAFELY HEAT YOUR HOME BY FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES:

- Have a qualified technician install all new equipment.
- Have a qualified professional inspect your equipment annually. The inspection will ensure that the system is maintained in proper working order and identify any parts that require repair or replacement.
- Schedule regular cleaning of your boiler, furnace and hot water heater, including the chimney and chimney connectors.
- Have your wood-burning stove or fireplace, including the chimney and connectors, inspected every year by a professional.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of fireplace openings to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.

BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP, BE SURE YOUR FIREPLACE FIRE IS OUT!



Photo by John Bascetta

ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS

When purchasing an electric space heater, look for heaters with automatic shut-off features.

GIVE SPACE HEATERS SPACE

Heaters should be placed at least three feet from any combustible material, such as bedding and furniture.

- Never use an extension cord with a space heater.
- Inspect the electrical cord for damage before each use.
- Keep young children and pets away from space heaters.
- Only use equipment that has the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Turn off/unplug the space heater whenever you leave the room or go to sleep.

Never use the kitchen oven or gas range to heat your home or apartment. Such improper use could cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide to accumulate, causing severe illness and possible death.

The use of kerosene or propane space heaters is strictly prohibited and illegal in New York City. The use of these types of space heaters poses a high risk of death and injury.



Electric space heater with thermostat and automatic shut-off.



Kerosene space heaters are illegal to use in NYC.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

With the rising costs of heating energy, you may choose to use an electric blanket to help keep you warm on a cold winter's night. However, misused or damaged blankets can easily become an ignition source for a fire.

FOR A SAFE NIGHT'S SLEEP, follow these recommendations for using electric blankets:

- Use only electric blankets that have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark.
- Replace all electric blankets that are more than 10 years old. (99% of blanket fires have been caused by blankets 10 years or older.)
- Purchase blankets with an automatic safety shut-off. (The device will shut off the blanket if the temperature gets too high.)



- Always buy new electric blankets; second-hand blankets may not be safe.
- Replace any electric blanket that has broken or frayed cords or scorch marks.
- Avoid tucking the electric blanket in at the sides of the bed.
- Avoid placing other blankets or comforters on top of an electric blanket while in use.
- Warm the bed with your electric blanket and turn it off before going to bed.

Electric blankets also present a burn risk to those who cannot feel heat or are unable to react appropriately. Therefore, never place an electric blanket on babies, small children or those with physical limitations that may prevent them from turning the control off or removing the blanket from their body.

BE ELECTRICALLY SAFE

Worn, damaged or improperly used electrical cords cause most home electrical fires.

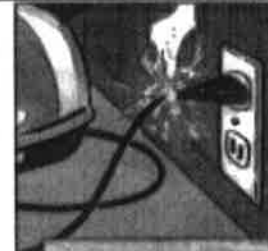
Take a few minutes this season to **INSPECT THE CONDITION** of your electrical cords, extension cords, plugs and outlets to make your home as safe as possible.

- Do all the electrical appliances and cords have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark?
- Are cords out from beneath furniture and rugs or carpeting?
- Do extension cords carry more than their proper load?
- Are any outlets or switches unusually warm or hot to the touch?

- Do all outlets and switches have cover plates?
- Is any cover plate discolored? (Discoloration could indicate that the wiring behind the plate is overheating.)
- Do all electrical plugs fit snugly into their outlets?
- Are any outlets overloaded with more than two appliances?

Carefully inspect new and used holiday lights for cracked or frayed wires. Do not use broken bulbs on Christmas trees.

Remember, extension cords are for temporary use only and not to be used as a permanent extension of a home's wiring system.



CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY TIPS

Christmas trees are enjoyed in many homes as the traditional centerpiece of the holiday celebration. However, both real and artificial trees pose an increased risk of fire. Christmas tree fires do happen. Defective lighting, including electrical cords and plugs, cause almost half of all Christmas tree fires.

Protect your family and your neighbors with the following fire prevention tips:

- When choosing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant. When choosing a real tree, select the freshest-looking tree available.
- Select a tree that is an appropriate size for the room. Keep in mind that trees look smaller when they are outside and tree toppers and stands will add to the final height of the tree.



REAL Trees

- Test for freshness by gently grasping a branch between your thumb and forefinger and pulling it toward you. Very few needles should come off.
- Shake or bounce the tree on its stump. If an excessive number of green needles fall to the ground, the tree may not be fresh.
- Buy your tree early. Most tree lots receive only one shipment of trees. Trees don't become fresher sitting in a lot.
- If you don't plan on putting the tree up right away, make a one half inch fresh cut off the bottom of the trunk and place the tree in a five-gallon bucket of warm water. Store the tree in cool temperatures, but above freezing.

• If the tree has been stored for more than three days, prior to putting it up, make another one inch cut off the bottom of the trunk and immediately place the tree into a stand that holds at least a half-gallon of water.

• Keep the water level above the cut and check the water level daily. (Initially, a fresh tree may soak up a gallon of water per day.)

• No water additives, such as aspirin, sugar or commercial fire retardant, are necessary. Plain tap water is best!

• Place the tree away (at least three feet) from heating system air registers, fireplaces and other heat sources.

• Try to position the tree near an electrical outlet to minimize use of extension cords.

• Adequately support the tree with a sturdy stand designed not to tip over.

• Do not use electric lights on metallic trees. (Use remote spot or reflective lights.)

• Do not use lighted candles or other flaming devices on or near your tree.

• Whenever possible, use decorations made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.

• Unplug the tree lights when out of the room and before going to sleep.

Even if you keep your tree properly watered, it will naturally start to dry out. Discard the tree immediately after the holiday.

HOLIDAY FEASTING

The holidays are a time for celebration and that means more cooking! Regrettably, cooking fires remain the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries. Unattended cooking accounts for 33% of these fires. Other leading causes are placing combustible items too close to the heat source and various electrical defects.

There are a variety of situations that lead to unattended cooking fires. The most common is when the cook becomes distracted and leaves the kitchen.

In order to drastically reduce your risk of a cooking fire, follow this recipe for safety:

- Stay in the kitchen; don't leave cooking food unattended. (Stand by your pan!)
- Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves. (Long, loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles.)
- Enforce a "kid-free zone" of three feet around your stove.
- Keep the area around the stove clear of towels, papers, pot holders or anything that could burn.
- Cook at indicated temperature settings rather than higher settings.
- Keep a pot lid handy to smother a pan fire. Do not attempt to pick up the pot or pan. Shut off the heat and cover the fire with a lid.

DO NOT USE WATER!

It will cause splashing and spread the fire.

- Treat burns immediately with cool running water.

Don't Let Your Turkey Fryer Fry You!

In recent years, deep-frying turkeys has become increasingly popular; however, this new tradition is a recipe for a holiday tragedy!

The use of turkey fryers are considered a serious injury and fire risk because:

- As the turkey is placed in the hot oil, oil may spill from the fryer onto the burner, causing a fire.
- Turkey fryers can easily tip over, spilling the hot oil onto anyone nearby.
- Most turkey fryers do not have an automatic thermostat control. With no temperature control, the oil could overheat to the point of combustion and cause a fire.
- The turkey fryers, including the lid and handles, get extremely hot and may cause burns.
- Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause a spillover effect.

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has decided not to safety certify any turkey fryers due to the increasing number of fires and burn injuries related to their use.



**THIS CAN
BASILY TURN
INTO THIS.**



**DON'T LET IT
HAPPEN TO
YOU!**

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING AND SMOKING MATERIALS

More people die in fires started by carelessly discarded smoking materials, such as cigarette butts, cigarette ashes, lighters and ashtrays, than any other type of fire. The most common materials to ignite first are mattresses and bedding, followed by trash and upholstered furniture.

Fires caused by smoking materials often smolder, sometimes for hours before the first flame.

When planning your holiday party, also plan to take precautions to prevent a fire in your home.

- Provide plenty of large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently.
- After entertaining in your home, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trashcans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- Don't smoke in bed or lying down, especially if you are drowsy, medicated or have been drinking alcohol.
- Consider additional smoke alarms in your home; specifically a photoelectric type, which is the most reliable for smoldering-type fires.
- Smokers are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home.

Candle Light!

Candle fires have tripled in the past ten years. In fact, candle fires peak on Christmas day, followed by New Years and Christmas Eve.

How does a little flame become so dangerous?

More than 33% of candle fires occurred when the candles were left unattended or abandoned. Roughly 25% of the fires occurred because something combustible, such as curtains or paper was too close to the flame. Half the people killed by candle fires in the home were younger than 20, with most of the victims between the ages of five and nine.



If you burn candles for decorative or ritual purposes, make your home safer by:

- Using candles with flame-protective, non-combustible shades or globes.
- Using a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candle holder.
- Avoiding the use of candles with embedded combustible decorative items.
- Placing candles at least 4 feet away from curtains, draperies, decorations, blinds and bedding.
- Placing candles out of reach of small children and pets.
- Refraining from using decorative/floral candle rings.
- Extinguishing candles before leaving the room.
- Extinguishing candles when they burn within two inches of the holder.
- Never leaving burning candles unattended.

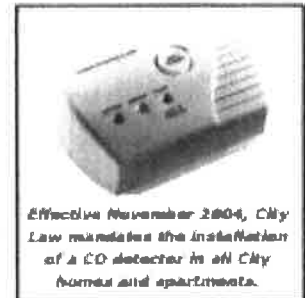
The Silent Killer, Carbon Monoxide!

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and toxic gas. Nicknamed "the silent killer," carbon monoxide is totally undetectable by human senses.

Since carbon monoxide is a by-product of incomplete combustion, any fuel-burning appliance, vehicle or tool that is inadequately vented or maintained can be a potential source of carbon monoxide gas.

People are at an increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning during the winter months. Well-insulated, airtight homes (primarily newer construction) and malfunctioning heating equipment can produce dangerously high and potentially deadly concentrations of carbon monoxide.

Protect yourself and your family by purchasing and installing carbon monoxide detector alarms. A properly working carbon monoxide detector alarm can provide an early warning, before deadly gases build up to dangerous levels.



Effective November 2004, City Law mandates the installation of a CO detector in all City homes and apartments.

Is Your Smoke Alarm Working?

A smoke alarm is the single most valuable lifesaving device you can have in your home. An operable smoke alarm will cut nearly in half your chances of dying in a fire.

While 97 out of 100 homes have a smoke alarm, more than 33% of these homes are not protected because the smoke alarms don't work.

REPLACE THE BATTERIES TWICE A YEAR!



"T was the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a candle was lit, as they were all blown out.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
With smoke and carbon monoxide alarms installed over their heads!"



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