



# Smoking and fire risk in your apartment community

Allowing smoking in your apartment community puts your property and residents at risk!



In Cobb County, smoking caused  
**12 structure fires**  
in 2020

- Smoking is the **leading cause of fire-related deaths** in apartments
- Apartment fires cause about **\$173 million** in property damage a year.

## Smoke-free policies

can help prevent fires!



**BreatheEasy Georgia Homes:**

Can help you adopt and implement a smoke-free policy and provides free recognition for smoke-free properties, including a listing on their website. Visit [breatheeasyghomes.org](https://breatheeasyghomes.org) to learn more!

**Fires are one of the top reasons property owners and managers in the southeast adopt a smoke-free policy at their properties:**

"...we've had two fires caused by somebody smoking a cigarette, so we don't want that, and so that's a good reason for us to say you can't smoke inside the apartment."

*-Housing Authority Director in Georgia*

"... simply taking smoking out of the units was the way that we could stop smoking-related fires, and we haven't had a smoking-related fire in a while - a long time, thank goodness, because of it."

*- Company President in North Carolina*

"A gentleman was smoking in his apartment ... He was putting his ashes in his dresser drawer and one of those ashes had an ember in it and it destroyed a brand new building - three apartments.... He was on the third floor, he burned his apartment, and water damaged two apartments to the point that it was hundreds of thousands of dollars on a brand new property."

*- Director of Property Management in North Carolina*

**Visit [breatheeasyghomes.org](https://breatheeasyghomes.org) today to learn how you can make your property smoke-free!**

#### Sources:

- National Fire Protection association's "Home Fires Started by Smoking", 2019. <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Smoking-Materials>
- Cobb County Fire Statistics 2020
- Interview data from the Emory Prevention Research Center's Smoke-Free Homes Project, supported by the National Cancer Institute's State and Community Tobacco Control Research Initiative, Grant Number U01CA154282.