



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 27, 2016

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**DBI DIRECTOR REMINDS BUILDING OWNERS AND
TENANTS TO INSPECT PROPERTIES FOR FIRE SAFETY**

Conducting Periodic Inspections & Filing Complaints May Correct Unsafe Fire Conditions

SAN FRANCISCO –Today, Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Director Tom Hui is reminding apartment building owners and tenants to increase their vigilance about fire safety in their homes and properties. Everyone has a role to prevent fires by taking immediate steps to ensure that properties are habitable and fire-safe, as well as by reporting any lapses such as blocked fire escapes or building exits.

“Both property owners and tenants play a pivotal role in ensuring fire safety in San Francisco homes that complement ongoing inspections by the City,” said Mayor Ed Lee. “I applaud DBI Director Hui and Fire Chief Hayes-White for taking proactive steps to remind building owners, and tenants, of their responsibilities in helping the City reduce these risks to a person’s life and home.”

Property owners are asked to inspect their buildings on a regular basis, just as tenants are asked to pay attention to building conditions and preemptively to address unsafe conditions. It is the property owner’s responsibility to maintain minimum maintenance standards for their properties. Building owners are encouraged to create regular communications channels with their tenants to ensure a safe and habitable housing environment. Tenants should report unsafe building conditions to their building owner early so the problem can then be remedied, and to both the Fire Department and to DBI, or through 3-1-1, for quick follow up actions.

“DBI is committed to ensuring apartment buildings continue to be safe and habitable,” said DBI Director Tom Hui, “and that is why we are working closely with the Fire Department to increase fire prevention and to respond to tenants’ concerns and complaints. Owners must inspect multi-unit buildings periodically for unsafe fire conditions, especially electrical overload situations, and address them immediately.”

San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White stated: “These reminders are meant to ensure the safety of our community, specifically tenants of multi-residential buildings. The SFFD will continue to work with members of the community, Supervisors, and other City agencies to facilitate the safety of San Franciscans and our visitors.”

Property owners along with tenants should take the immediate steps below to ensure home and property is fire safe, such as:

- Maintain unobstructed common hallways and means of exiting
- Maintain fire alarm systems & keep them certified/updated annually
- Maintain fire escapes and any equipment required to lower fire escape ladders to the street below
- Provide smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and check regularly

DBI provides a maintenance checklist that property owners and tenants can use to conduct an internal and external proactive inspection of their property as well as other tools online -- please visit <http://sfdbi.org/fire-safety>.

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About the Department of Building Inspection

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) oversees the effective, efficient, fair and safe enforcement of the City and County of San Francisco's building, housing, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and disability access codes for San Francisco's more than 200,000 buildings. Please visit www.sfdbi.org for more information. Follow @sfdbi on Twitter and Facebook to receive real-time safety tips.