

FIRE!

City law smokes out pre-flame hazards

By JANE BAKER
For the Emerald

Many University students may see smoke detectors installed in their apartments over the next couple of months.

As of July 1, a portion of a new city ordinance will make it necessary for owners of rented rooms (apartments, hotels, group care facilities) to install and maintain smoke detectors.

Under the ordinance, tenants in apartments, hotels, group care facilities and other rental units are required to periodically test their detectors and provide written notice to their building owner in the event of a malfunction.

Floyd Dickey, assistant fire marshal, says stricter fire prevention measures are part of a growing trend throughout the country. He added that a similar ordinance passed in Springfield.

Dickey says two types of smoke detectors are acceptable under federal regulations. One is the ionization detector which is battery operated and costs \$10-\$15. The other is the photoelectric type which runs electrically and costs \$25-\$30.

Ionization detectors work faster on flash fires while photoelectric type detects smoldering fires more quickly. Some commercial detectors can run as high as \$75.

Average homes require only one detector placed in the hallway near the bedrooms, Dickey says. In larger buildings, detectors must be placed every 30 feet.

State institutions have had detectors or sprinkler systems for several years under a state ruling.

Ellen Jacob, a property manager for Associated Management Inc. in Eugene says students should be conscientious in testing their detectors and under no circumstances remove the batteries. A law-

suit could result if a fire occurred in a unit where the tenant had tampered with the detector, she says.

Jacob adds that Associated Management is installing battery detectors, at a cost of \$12-\$17 each, in apartments without smoke detection systems. Associated Management manages approximately 800 units in Eugene, many occupied by students in the University area. "They (the detectors) are well worth the expense of the owners," Jacob says.

Other management firms and apartment owners have shown a basically positive reaction to the ordinance.

Larry Von Klein, who owns several apartment complexes in the Eugene-Springfield area, says the detectors aren't a severe expense. He says that in the end, the ordinance will help to save many tenants' lives and reduce the number of lawsuits against owners.

Dave Freedman of Cedar Investment Services Realtors says as proven lifesavers, smoke detectors are well worth the cost. He says the Multi-family Housing Council, a group of apartment owners and managers, basically supports the ordinance. Freedman is part owner in some Eugene properties.

New rental forms are currently being prepared by the Multi-family Housing Council in response to the ordinance, says Randi Bennett of the Home Builders Association.

The new forms certify that the tenant has tested the smoke detector and will continue to do so. Fresh batteries will be provided for new tenants.

The Valley River Inn will install smoke detectors in individual rooms, says Don Cox of the inn's engineering department. Cox adds they already have fire-detection systems in the hallways and detector installation in their 259 guest rooms will take place soon.



Emerald photo

Smoke detectors are proven weapons in fire prevention, and a new city ordinance requiring all rented rooms to be equipped with the detectors goes into effect July 1. Two types of detectors are acceptable under federal regulations, and both must be regularly maintained.

School integration waning, claims civil rights report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly half the minority children in America go to segregated schools, and Congress, the administration and the courts all seem to have lost interest in doing much about it, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission said Tuesday.

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled segregation unlawful and harmful to youngsters, but a child born that year could now be in graduate school without ever having attended an integrated school, educator Stephen Horn, vice chairman of the panel, told a

news conference.

The occasion was the publication of a commission report critical of Congress for passing anti-busing legislation and of the departments of Justice and Health, Education and Welfare for a lack of zeal in denying federal funds to school districts that defy desegregation orders.

Even the Supreme Court seems to be "retreating from its long-espoused commitment to the right of school children to a desegregated education," the commission said.

Nonetheless, commission

chairman Arthur Flemming told reporters he believed the American people "deep down" still support the idea of desegregated schooling.

Flemming acknowledged Congress has taken an anti-busing turn, but he said that is because the foes of integration, though outnumbered, are more persistent than the opponents of segregation.

The commission has no enforcement power, but is required by law to evaluate the status of school desegregation across the nation from time to time.

BLACK STUDENT UNION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dr. Ron Rousseve: "The Black Student in the Predominately White University"

Thursday Feb. 15, 2:30 EMU



ODE
it through
the
Classifieds

