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**Township of Marlboro**  
**Bureau of Fire Prevention**  
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**Fire Safety Bulletin**

June 20, 2009

To: Condominium Associations

From: John Higginson, Fire Official

Re: Fire Safety Issues

It has been brought to my attention that owners/tenants have been using their furnace rooms to store combustibles. The New Jersey Uniform Fire Code states that there should be no combustible storage within 3 feet of a furnace or water heater. This code requirement is for good reason since many destructive home fires and serious injuries are caused because of this violation. The furnace rooms in most condominiums are small and any storage in this area is a very dangerous violation.

**“There should be no storage in the Furnace Room.”**

The furnace room should be kept neat and clean. The furnace should be inspected at least annually by a qualified maintenance company and the air filters should be changed on a regular basis.

**Clothes Dryers**

- Clothes dryer units must have their lint filters cleaned after each load of drying to prevent lint collecting in various areas of the unit.
- Lint collection areas such as below the filter and in the rear of the tub must be monitored and cleaned when necessary, using a vacuum and brush as needed.
- Dryer vent pipes must be cleaned annually as required by Association Rules.
- Should never dry rags or garments that were contaminated with flammable liquids, such as gasoline, turpentine, flammable cleaning products, etc. (even if they were already washed)
- Should never dry rags or garments that were contaminated with drying oils that are subject to spontaneous combustion. (read product labels)
- Should not dry products with rubber backing such as throw-rugs.
- There should be no combustible storage on the top or sides of the clothes dryer. If there is a fire in the unit, these combustibles can ignite and extend the fire beyond the unit.

**Kitchen Stove**

- There should be no combustible storage on the top or near the kitchen stove. Combustibles such as food boxes, paper products, cloth pot holders, and similar items should not be placed on top of the stove, even temporarily or when no cooking is being conducted.
- Cooking should always be monitored and never left unattended. Should never leave the house with cooking devices of any type are in operation.
- A fire extinguisher should be hung and readily available in the kitchen area.
- If a fire starts in a cooking device, keep the appliance door closed, turn off heat, and unplug unit.