



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FIRE DEPARTMENT FOCUSES ON PREVENTING APARTMENT DECK FIRES**

*Multi-family Communities Distribute Free Self-Extinguishing Ash Trays to Residents*

When it comes to determining the cause of residential fires, the statistics show one cause rises above all others: careless disposal of smoking materials. Burnsville was impacted in a major way on March 16 when the Observatory Apartments suffered \$3 million in damage and hundreds residents were impacted due to a fire caused by the careless disposal of a cigarette.

The Burnsville Fire Department is teaming up with numerous multi-family communities to raise the awareness of the potential harmful effects of careless smoking through a public information campaign and distribution of self-extinguishing ash trays. As part of the statewide "Get Your Butt Outside" campaign, Burnsville has distributed over 650 self-extinguishing ash trays to both multi-family and single family residences. Along with the Observatory Apartments, the program is in place at the Atrium Apartments, Burningham, Raven Hill, Berkshire, Coventry Court, Nicollet Ridge, the Pines, Dakota View, The Woods of Burnsville and Summit Park Apartments. The statewide campaign is sponsored by the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association in cooperation with the Minnesota Fair Plan, an insurance industry association.

Nationwide, careless smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires. Over the past six years, careless disposal of smoking materials has accounted for 28 fires in Burnsville, amounting to \$4.5 million in property damage. Fire officials are concerned with cigarettes being carelessly flicked off decks at apartment buildings or being improperly "put out" in garden planters, among other ways that cigarettes are carelessly discarded.

For more information contact the Burnsville Fire Department at 952-895-4570.

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**City of Burnsville Press Release**

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Naudia Faumina, Community Manager for the Observatory Apartment Homes is pictured with Burnsville Fire Marshal Captain Le LaTourelle. Faumina will distribute the self-extinguishing ashtrays to residents in the complex.

BELOW: Photos from the Observatory Apartments Fire. Crews were dispatched and on the scene at 6:47 a.m. on March 16. The fire caused \$3 million in property damage and displaced residents in over 45 apartment units.



**City of Burnsville Press Release**

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