

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TENANTS DISPLACED BY FIRE

The Office of Housing Stability, a division of the Department of Neighborhood Development, offers City of Boston tenants and landlords assistance and information in the aftermath of fire.

Boston Emergency Assistance Fund

A City of Boston fund for victims of fire, condemnation, or natural disaster, that helps cover upfront costs associated with obtaining new housing. Contact the Office of Housing Stability for more information on eligibility and benefits, as well as additional resources that help connect victims with clothing, food, health services and furniture.

Relocations Funds:

Every insurance policy for multi-unit residential buildings must provide up to \$750.00 in relocation benefits to tenants or lawful occupants affected by a fire to cover actual relocation costs including a hotel stay, a security deposit, or first month's rent for a new rental, clothing, furniture, or placement. Landlords must notify tenants of this benefit at the beginning of the rental period. **Massachusetts General Law Chapter 175, Section 99, Clause 15.**

Landlords must upon written request of any tenant, disclose the name of any insurance company which may provide coverage or benefits to the tenant within fifteen days of the tenant's request. **Massachusetts General Law Chapter 186, Section 21.**

Rent

Tenants should not be charged rent for the period when the unit is uninhabitable and, if the tenants will not be re-housed, the landlord must return any tenant security deposit and/or last month's rent held.

Priority for Affordable Housing

Displacement by fire is grounds for priority one status for Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Section 8 and project-based subsidized housing. Tenants should get a copy of the Fire and ISD reports as proof of displacement.

Damages:

The landlord is likely not responsible for fire damage to tenant's belongings, absent negligence; renters should have insurance.

Office of Housing Stability
617-635-4200

Mayor's 24-Hour Hotline
3-1-1 or 617-635-4500

Boston Fire Department
Fire Investigation Unit:
617-343-3324

Office of Neighborhood Services
617-635-3485

Inspectional Services Department
617-635-5300

Red Cross
617-274-5200

Office of Immigrant Advancement
617-635-2980

DTA Office – 1010 Massachusetts Avenue
617-989-2200

OFFICE OF HOUSING STABILITY
www.boston.gov/housing/office-housing-stability
617-635-4200

Boston Housing Authority
617-988-4000

DTA Office-2201 Washington Street
617-989-6100