



# HOLOMUA NEWSLETTER



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## The Marco Polo Tragedy and What We Can Learn From It



On July 14, 2017, the Marco Polo condominium, a 36-story 568-unit building, suffered a devastating fire that resulted in three deaths, several dozen injuries, and damaged more than 200 units (30 of them were total losses due to smoke, heat and fire damage). One of the major reasons for this debilitating fire was the lack of a sprinkler system. The Marco Polo is not alone in this: 300 other high-rises in Honolulu do not have sprinkler systems, as it was not required in buildings built before 1975 (the Marco Polo was built in 1971). An inspection conducted by an engineering firm in 2013 found that the Marco Polo did not meet the city's fire code, as the fire alarms were not loud enough and did not have flashing lights.



Thankfully, Holomua has a sprinkler system and fire alarms that can be heard and seen within the units and in the common areas. We also have a fire evacuation plan that instructs you on what to do if you discover a fire in the building, and how to leave your unit and evacuate through the stairwells. Included in this document is a floor diagram for evacuation.

What you can do:

- Do not ignore fire alarms; it may be the real thing. If not, practice will make us more efficient in evacuating when a fire does occur.
- If you do not have a fire evacuation plan, you can pick one up in the mailroom or download it from our website [holomuacondo.com](http://holomuacondo.com). It is important to familiarize yourself with the contents so you are aware of what to do if there is a fire.
- Do not keep your unit's entry door open. This is a fire code violation. Our unit doors have a fire rating of at least 20 minutes and are critical to preventing



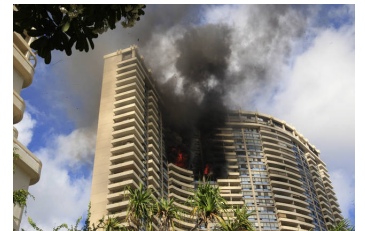
## Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **Tuesday September 12** at 7:00 p.m. in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor Activity Room. Owners are encouraged to attend!

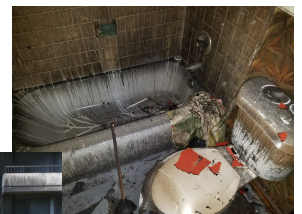
the spread of a fire in the building. Many units in the Marco Polo had secondary doors with louvers or screens for ventilation, and this most likely allowed the fire to easily spread from the hallway into these units.



- Small fires within your unit can be brought under control with some reasonable action on your part. Paper or trash fires can be extinguished with water. If a grease fire occurs while cooking, cover the pan to put out the flames. DO NOT use water on grease or electrical fires; use a chemical fire extinguisher instead.
- If your kitchen becomes smoky when cooking, open your windows and lanai glass door to ventilate your unit. DO NOT open your main front door, as this will allow smoke into the hallway and activate the building-wide fire alarm.
- If you know of any elderly or handicapped neighbors who may need assistance evacuating, you might want to check on them if it is safe to do so. Those who are unable to descend the stairs should remain near the landing of the stairway on their floor along with an able-bodied adult to ensure their safety until help arrives.



- Keep the stairway doors closed to keep smoke and fire out of the stairwells. DO NOT prop open these doors.



**HO6 Insurance is REQUIRED For Your Unit!**

By now, all owners should be aware that they are required to have HO6 homeowners insurance to cover any losses related to their unit and personal property. Last year, the Board enlisted the help of Insurance Associates to monitor and enforce the status of our unit owners' insurance policies. Letters were sent out to all owners requesting proof of insurance, and follow-up letters were sent to those who were not in compliance. Finally, a few months ago the Board authorized insurance policies to be purchased for the remaining non-compliant units (about 10). The premiums for these policies were charged to the unit owners' maintenance fee accounts. Additionally, proof of insurance must be provided to Insurance Associates upon renewal of your policy every year. Owners should follow the instructions in the reminder letters they receive.

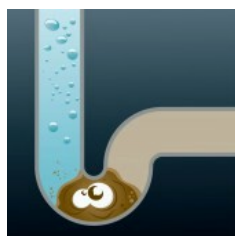


**Notes & Reminders**

Some quick notes regarding issues that were brought up at recent meetings:

**BIKE THEFTS:** Recently, two bikes were stolen from the bike rack located on the first floor. A motion-activated light is installed in this area, and owners are advised to secure their bikes with sturdy locks. If you happen to be a victim of this or any crime, report the incident promptly to the police by calling 911, and also inform our building manager Philip Yee. Phil's office hours are Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri 9a-12p, Wed 1:30-4:30p. You can also contact him at 426-7659 ext. 30.

**CLOGGED DRAINS:** Recently, an owner of a unit had a clogged kitchen sink that resulted in a \$773 bill from the plumbing company. The plumbers found and cleared the blockage 10-15 feet from the unit, in a common area of the building's structure. As a result, the owner appealed her case at the last board meeting, and the Board decided to reimburse her for the bill. However, keep in mind that if a blockage is found within the boundaries of a unit, it is the owner's responsibility to pay for any expenses. A few reminders to prevent drain clogs from happening:



- Most bathroom clogs are a result of hair. To prevent this, use a drain strainer to catch hair.
- Clogged toilets frequently result when improper materials are flushed down. Do not flush feminine hygiene items, cotton swabs, dental floss or diaper wipes.
- Kitchen sinks are a major factor in clogged drains. Do not pour grease or oil down the drain, as these can solidify and cause blockage. Undissolvable food articles such as rice, pasta, potato peels and excessive food scraps are also culprits. Do not toss paper towels or cigarettes down the drain, as they also do not break down. Use a drain strainer to catch any objects, and dispose of them in the trash.



**MOVING:** Be sure to make an appointment with the building manager at least two days prior to your move in order to reserve the freight elevator and vehicle loading & unloading zone. Moves must take place between 8am and 5pm.



**ACTIVITY ROOM TOILET:** When using the 7<sup>th</sup> floor activity room's bathroom, please be sure the toilet is not left "running" when you leave. Recently we had a problem with the flushing mechanism getting stuck, and who knows how much water (\$\$\$) was wasted.

**Pickleball Anyone?**

Have you ever heard of pickleball? Believe it or not, this is one of the fastest growing sports in the nation, with an estimated 2.5 million players soaring to eight million by 2018. It is best described as a combination of tennis, ping pong and badminton, played with a plastic wiffle ball and paddles. The court is about 1/3rd the size of a tennis court, and the net is two inches lower in the middle. The beauty of this game lies in the creators' intent to make it less aggressive than other sports. Because of its friendly nature, the game is easy to learn and has far less impact on the body than tennis. It is also a LOT of fun, encourages social interaction and is great exercise to boot! If interested, please contact Robert at [robertokano@yahoo.com](mailto:robertokano@yahoo.com), or search for the "Oahu Pickleball Association" on Google.

