



KEEP VACANT PROPERTIES FROM BECOMING A HAZARD TO COMMUNITIES

Substandard and dangerous buildings are a nuisance for all of us. When vacant properties are not properly secured and are open to casual and unlawful entry by the public they become even more of a hazard. Not only can these properties attract criminal activity and trespassers, they attract trash and debris, and squatters in vacant buildings can cause fire hazards for the entire community.

The City constantly works to ensure that vacant buildings are properly secured. Housing inspectors conduct over 200,000 inspections annually and we work to get properties into the hands of owners who will properly maintain them. But even with this amount of effort, we will not always immediately know where unlawful entry has occurred or where a vacant property may need to be boarded.

YOU CAN HELP BY REPORTING NUISANCE PROPERTIES AND UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Use the **311 One Call Center** to report a residential property which has become open to casual entry by the public and represents a hazard to the community. You can also use [311 Online](#) or the 311 mobile app.

311 Call Center Operation - Seven Days a Week: 6am to 10pm
Call 3-1-1, within the City of Baltimore - Outside City call: 443-263-2220

OTHER SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME AND COMMUNITY SAFE FROM FIRE HAZARDS

- ▶ A working smoke alarm is your first line of defense.
- ▶ At the beginning of every heating season, you should have all fuel-burning appliances checked by a qualified technician.
- ▶ Install carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home, near the ceiling within 5 feet of gas-fueled appliances.
- ▶ Also, inspect all chimneys and flues to ensure they are connected and free from blockages.
- ▶ Create home escape plans, identifying at least two ways out of the home if needed.

