**August**

**Week 1- Fire Safety for College Students**

As the fall semester approaches, colleges and universities are busy preparing for the arrival of new residents to their campus communities. Some will be first year students moving into the residence halls. Other arriving students will be moving off-campus living on their own, some for the first time. For most of these students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school; but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is both important that both off-campus and on-campus students understand fire risks and know the preventative measures that could save their lives. Living off campus often means that there often aren’t automatic fire sprinklers, missing or disabled smoke alarms. Students who live on their own can also have careless judgment from alcohol consumption. In 2010-2014 U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,970 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks. On average there was 1 civilian death and 35 civilian injuries per fire. Most fires start in the kitchen area.

**Week 2- Smoking**

If you smoke, you should smoke outside. You should never smoke in bed or near medical oxygen. Medical oxygen can ignite fires easily and make fires burn at faster rates than normal. Wherever you smoke make sure you use deep, sturdy ashtray. Never put smoking material in the trash can or near anything that can burn. Before you throw out blunts and ashes, make sure they are completely out; put out smoking material in water or sand. Keep cigarettes, lighter, matches and other smoking materials high out of reach from children.

You should still take caution if you use E-cigarettes. The device should be charged as instructed by the manufacturer. Do not mix and match components from different manufacturers or other devices. You should not leave the e-cig while it’s charging nor over tighten the battery. When it is done charging, remove the battery. You should also clean all the connecting parts once a week.

**Week 3- Carbon Monoxide- Generators Around RVs and Tents**

Carbon monoxide (CO), often called the “silent killer” is an invisible, odorless, gas created when fuels (such as kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas) burn incompletely. Carbon monoxide can result from a number of camping equipment, including barbeque grills, portable generators, or other fuel powered devices. Carbon monoxide levels from barbeque grills or portable generators can increase quickly in enclosed spaces. Campers should keep and use these items in well-ventilated areas to avoid fumes leaking into the openings or vents of RVs and tents. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include headache, nausea, and drowsiness. Extremely high levels of poisoning can be fatal, causing death within minutes. Anyone who suspects they are suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning should immediately move to a fresh air location and call 911. In order to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, you should only use BBQ grills and portable generators outside, away from all doors, windows, vents, and other shelter openings. Lit or smoldering grills should never be taken inside a home, tent or RV. Never bring a fuel powered lantern or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, camper or RV. Install and maintain CO alarms inside homes, campers and RVs to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.

**Week 4- Calling 911 for Emergencies**

You should call 911 for any emergency that needs assistance from the police, fire department, or ambulance. If you are not sure if a situation requires help from 911, make the call and let the call-taker determine whether you need emergency help. When you call 911 be prepared to answer the call-taker’s questions, which may include: the location of the emergency, the phone number you are calling from, the nature of the emergency, and details about the emergency. The number of 911 calls being placed by wireless phones has increased in recent years. While wireless phones are convenient, they can create unique challenges for emergency response personnel. Unlike landline phones, wireless phones are not associated with one fixed location or address. While the location of the cell site closest to the 911 caller may provide a general indication of the caller’s location, that information is usually not specific enough for rescue personnel to deliver assistance to the caller quickly. Pay attention to the instructions that 911 operators give to you. A lot of times 911 operators can tell you exactly what to do to help in an emergency until help arrives. If you or your child accidentally dials 911 do not hang up. 911 operators might think there’s an actual emergency and send emergency personnel. Simply explain to the caller what happened.