

Georgia Unified



Community Risk Reduction Guide

www.georgiafire.org



Don't Put Yourself In Their Shoes

HISTORY OF THE FIRE FATALITY TASK FORCE

In 2016, the state of Georgia had 154 fire fatalities. This is the highest number of fatalities in the state since 1995. The increase in the number of fatalities sparked a partnership to address the need for increased education efforts in the state.

The Fire Fatality Task Force was formed after the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs determined that the fire service as a whole needed to address the increase in fatalities across the state. The Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs partnered with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's Office, Georgia Public Safety Educators Association, Georgia State Firefighters Association, and the Georgia Fire Inspectors Association, and the to educate not only the citizens of the state of Georgia, but also the fire service about fire prevention.

The Task Force wanted to promote an impactful message to engage the fire service and the community to make positive behavior changes when it comes to fire safety. The Alabama State Fire College began the statement of placing a pair of shoes on display for every fire fatality that had occurred and during Firefighter Recognition Day in 2017 at the Georgia State Capital the Fire Fatality Task Force decided to utilize the creative messaging idea and exhibited one pair of shoes for every fire fatality in Georgia from 2016. The goal of the display is to not only bring awareness to the increase in fire fatalities in 2016 but to also engage our partners in the fight to reduce fire deaths in our state.



SPECIAL THANKS

Rockdale County Fire Department
Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services
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Beverly Walker, East Georgia State College

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INTRODUCTION

GOALS OF THE GEORGIA UNIFIED COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION GUIDE

- Provide every department a basic fire prevention plan that they can tailor to meet the needs of their community.
- Educate the communities of Georgia with the unified fire prevention messages provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- Provide focused messaging across Georgia throughout the year.

HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

All fire prevention messaging throughout the guide is taken directly from the NFPA educational messaging guide found at <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/educational-messaging>. The messaging was created by the Educational Messages Advisory Committee who meet periodically to **review NFPA's** fire and burn safety education messages and to provide recommendations to NFPA public education staff for updating and revising the messages. The EMAC public education messages are used throughout NFPA's educational programs, curricula, and handouts, and provide fire and life safety educators with accurate and consistent language for use when offering safety information to the public.

Tips:

- Contains general tips and outlines for fire prevention activities including station tours and smoke alarm blitz.

Age Appropriate Curriculum Guide:

- Gives suggested topics based on the age of the child for presentations

Georgia Standards relating to Fire/Emergency Services:

- Many departments have a difficult time getting into schools due to lack of time in the school's schedule because of the standards they are required to teach. This section breaks down the Georgia Standards and shows how the Fire Service can fit into the curriculum that they teachers are required to teach.

Weekly Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction Messaging:

- Gives a week by week focused messaging guide for prevention. Each topic (week) is self-contained and can be used for adult presentations at anytime of the year.

GENERAL PUBLIC EDUCATION TIPS

It is our goal that firefighters across the state use every visit or tour as an “educational window of opportunity,” and make it fun and enjoyable for all involved. Remember that the kids look up to you as a role model so have fun but remember to be sincere and age appropriate. Let them see you as a real person who can relate to them. Even though the group may consist of children, don’t forget the adults. They are just as curious about the fire service as the kids. This is an excellent opportunity to “sell” the fire department. You can educate them about the injury prevention, proper use of 9-1-1, level of service provided, trainings attended, and additional public education activities available.

- Be prepared – Know your material and make sure you have all needed equipment.
- Be punctual – Arrive at least 15 minutes early to allow for setup and be sensitive to the time allotted.
- Be cordial – Smile and greet people with enthusiasm
- Be engaging – People can be intimidated or shy around new people. Show them how much you care and they will care about how much you know.
- Answer their questions – Answer and clarify their questions. If you don’t have an answer get it for them.
- Maintain Professionalism - Represent the Fire Service and your co-workers well!

*****It is highly recommended that children not try on protective equipment or touch it or other equipment. The weight of the gear can harm them along with residues on gear. In addition, we are teaching them that what we use are tools and children should not touch tools.**

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY MESSAGES ON CHILDREN

By the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Overall conclusion and recommendations for safety programming:

- For both younger and older children, watching positively framed videos was more effective than watching negatively framed videos. Parents also rated positively framed videos as more effective. Thus, safety messages should focus on depicting the positive outcomes that result from engaging in safety behaviors. Communicating safety messages by depicting the negative consequences of unsafe behaviors were not as effective as communicating the positive outcomes of safe behavior.
- When parents discuss media content with their children, children learn more. These parental mediation effects were maximized when parents were provided with discussion guidelines. When parents were simply asked to discuss the videos with their children, without being given specific guidelines on how to do so, outcomes were less favorable.
- Parents need assistance with how to discuss media content with their children.

Overall, findings from this research suggest that the impact of safety messages on children will be greatest when messages are framed positively, parents are encouraged to discuss these messages with children, and parents are provided with discussion guidelines.

FIRE STATION TOURS

Effective Station Tours = Awareness and Results

All or portions of the programs in the curriculum section can be used by the presenter based on the available time. A good station tour should take about 45 minutes, depending on the station and number of participants. This would include time for educational opportunities, as well as showing off apparatus and equipment.

Before station tours

Make a final check of the station. Look for hazards such as items that could easily be knocked over, slippery areas, trailers left open, etc. and secure the station for the tour.

During station tours

Safety around the station is of paramount concern. Make sure that all adults understand what to do should you get an emergency call during the presentation. Children are to be supervised at all times and are the responsibility of the adult group leaders.

Keep the tours moving, especially with younger kids. They have a short attention span and are easily bored by technical explanations. Remember station tours are not just tours; they are educational opportunities, also. We want to provide prevention education and safety information to children and adults alike at every opportunity, and this will certainly be a captive audience. This is also a good time to promote each individual fire station or the fire department as a whole, as a good community partner.

After the tour

It is highly recommended to track public education events. The information can be very beneficial to your department and community.

SMOKE ALARM BLITZ

A smoke alarm blitz in your community is an effective way to educate the community, improve public relations, and most importantly save lives but it is an activity that requires a good deal of planning. This step-by-step checklist is a guide to help in the planning process for a large scale smoke alarm blitz.

Three – Two months prior:

- Select blitz location/s
 - Reach out to the appropriate Chief, First-In Station, and/or Community Partners
 - Retrieve statistics on blitz location
 - Obtain map of area
 - Best scenario is 200 homes for 10 teams for 4 hours
- Search for volunteers – create interest
 - Speak at meetings, email community partners, and volunteers with dates
 - Best scenario is between 30 – 50 volunteers for 10 teams
- Find lunch sponsor or make arrangements

One month prior:

- Find neighborhood point of contact
 - Meet with point of contact, leave sign-in sheet
- Survey neighborhood
 - Select Command Post location with bathroom access and parking for volunteers
 - Schedule a date to “flyer” the area at least one week prior
- Create Excel Sheet for Teams and Data Collection (see examples below)
 - First tab – Master list of homes and addresses
 - Second tab – Individual team survey assignments
 - Maximum of 10 Teams with 5 volunteers each
 - Each team is given 10 homes to survey per 2 hours
 - Third tab – Post-blitz Data entry
- Create Volunteer List and continue recruitment
- Place any material orders (alarms, screws)

Master List Example (Tab 1)

Address	Requested	Team Assigned	Notes

Team Assignment Example (Tab 2)

Team # _____

Homes
Completed :

Declined:

Smoke Alarms
Installed:

Not Home:

Vacant :

Batteries

Address	Done	Not Home	Declined	Vacant	Notes

Post-Blitz Data Entry Example (Tab 3)

Address	# of Existing Smoke Alarms	# of Working (not expired) Smoke Alarms	# New Smoke Alarms Installed	# Batteries Changed	# Children	# Older Adults	Notes

Two weeks prior:

- Release tentative Blitz schedule
 - Send schedule to the appropriate Chief, Operations, Public Information Officer, First-In Station, Educators, and Volunteers
- Stuff information bags with relevant info for each home
- Conduct any pre-blitz captain’s training

One week prior:

- “Flyer” area to alert residents
 - Place flyers on outside of mailbox or door. Do not insert into mailbox.
- Complete Excel Sheet
 - If a sign-up sheet was offered, highlight addresses on home assignment lists to make sure residents that signed up get priority
- Create captain’s bags for each team. Bags should contain the following:
 - List and map
 - Print assigned each home list from Excel
 - Print map of neighborhood, highlight assigned area
 - Long Clipboard, with forms
 - Large envelope for forms, labeled with team number
 - Information bags
 - “Sorry we missed you” half sheets
 - Pens
- Ensure schedule is up to date
 - Courtesy call to appropriate chief and First-In Station
 - Courtesy reminder to volunteers with updated agenda
 - Update staff, assign cars, and tasks

Command Post Materials Needed
Folding tables
Folding chairs
Tents
Necessary Paperwork*
Educational materials (optional: kids area)
Water and snacks
Extra Pens, Clipboards, Tape
Screws
Batteries
Info bags
Extra trash bags
Red Home Safety Survey Signs

Two days prior:

- Prep toolboxes. Each tool box should contain:
 - *Charged* electric drill, along with Philips and flathead screwdriver
 - *Full* containers of dry-wall screws
 - 9-V and AA batteries
 - Trash bags
 - Eye protection
- Make arrangements for Smoke Alarms from supply.
 - Average 5 alarms per household and 70 percent of the total homes being surveyed. (5 alarms x 200 homes. Multiply that number by 0.7)
- Order lunch/snacks and water.

Team Materials Needed
Radios
Vests
Captains’ Bags
Smoke Alarms
Step ladders
Toolboxes

Day of:

- Set up command post at least 30 minutes before volunteer sign-in
 - Place Signs around community
 - Set up Sign-In station and Area for supplies
 - Set up Kids Area
 - Arrange area for snacks, water, etc.
- Sign in volunteers and begin assigning teams
- Follow Agenda – Be sure to begin on-site training and Blitz on time!

One week post-blitz:

- Collect and analyze data collected via Excel document
- Summarize results and send out to all partners

SAMPLE AGENDA FOR SMOKE ALARM BLITZ

7:00 - 7:30AM	HQ Arrival – Last min packing Depart to Location	Ice for Water Captain Bags, Radios, Misc.
8:00 – 8:45AM	Set up Command Post (CP) Ensure volunteers sign in and sign waiver Place volunteers on teams	Volunteer Waiver, Sign-In Sheets, Team Assignments
8:45 – 10:00AM	*Training - Captains/Installers + Scribes Material distribution (<i>see below for specifics</i>)	Radios, vests, bags, alarms, ladders, toolboxes
10:00 – 12:00PM	First Block of Installations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educators oversee several teams• Some personnel remains at CP, acts as facilitator and runner	
12:00 – 1:00PM	Lunch	
1:00 – 3:00PM	Second Block of Installations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As teams finish their lists, return to CP for another list, or go assist other teams• Teams are dismissed when all homes have been completed	
3:00 – 4:00PM	Clean Up While teams are still on location, make sure paperwork and captain's list are turned in to Command, in labeled envelope Break down command	

TEMPLATE: ON-SITE TRAINING AGENDA

- Together (15 minutes – Lead Educator)
 - Introduce Educator assignments
 - Go over Schedule for the day
 - 3 Knock Rule – Scene Safety
 - Request Translation Services
 - No one to leave the home until entire team is finished
- Break into Groups (30 minutes – Two Educators)
 - Captains/Installers
 - Toolbox Materials
 - Radio Usage –
 - Request Batteries, Smoke Alarms, Trash
 - Translation Services
 - Where/How to Install
 - # Code of Smoke Alarms to record – Leave one instruction with Resident
 - Scribes
 - Form Overview (If working with another agency such as American Red Cross, may need additional information on a separate form as required by your Fire Department)
 - Family Evacuation Education
 - Information Bag – Sorry We Missed You Card
 - Importance of collecting Data and Smoke Alarm #
- Together (15-10 Minutes – Lead Educator)
 - Re-Group with team members
 - Message from Fire Department Representative (Chief)
 - Collect materials and disburse

Blitz Home Safety Survey

Date: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
(Own__ or Rent __) (Disabled :__) (Low Income :__) (Single Parent :__)
Household:
#Adults:_____ (#Age 65+:____) #Children: _____ (Ages:_____) (# under Age 5:____)
Special Circumstances: _____ Email Address: _____

EXTERIOR

YES NO N/A

Educated

- House numbers visible from street
 Electrical outlets have moisture covers and GFCI protection
 Landscape & Overgrowth manicured away from structure and pathways

SMOKE ALARMS

YES NO N/A

- Existing Smoke Alarms # _____
 Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old. Expiration Date: _____
 Smoke alarms are in working order. Tested and Operable # _____

Smoke Alarms Installed Y/N _____ # of Batteries Changed: _____

SA Make/Model: _____ Expiration Date: _____

SA Make/Model: _____ Expiration Date: _____

SA Make/Model: _____ Expiration Date: _____

SA Make/Model: _____ Expiration Date: _____

SA Make/Model: _____ Expiration Date: _____

SA Make/Model: _____ Expiration Date: _____

FAMILY ROOM/HALLWAY

YES NO N/A

Educated

- All entrance ways, exits, halls and walks are well lit and free from clutter.
 Proper electrical cord use with lamps/TV's; kept away from paper, drapes, etc.
 Television secured from tip over by mounting bracket on table/wall.

KITCHEN

- | YES | NO | N/A | | <input type="checkbox"/> Educated |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Potholders and oven mitts (<i>not towels</i>) are used to move hot pots and pans. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Home owner always attends to stove or oven while in use. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cooking area is free from paper, drapes, etc. (3 ft. rule). | |

LAUNDRY ROOM

- | YES | NO | N/A | | <input type="checkbox"/> Educated |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dryer vented to outside of house and cleaned regularly | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Washer and dryer free from build-up, paper, drapes, etc. (3ft rule) | |

BEDROOM(S)/BATHROOMS

- | YES | NO | N/A | Total # Bedrooms: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Educated |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Occupants sleep with door closed | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 exits out of each room (windows are easily opened by the owner) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Free of smoking materials in sleeping areas | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Small appliances (ex: curling iron, hair dryer) unplugged when not in use; electrical circuits GFCI | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Permanent grab bars in place | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Prescription medication secure & out of children's reach | |

MISCELLANEOUS

- | YES | NO | N/A | | <input type="checkbox"/> Educated |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fuse box accessible and labeled; metal door closed | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Space heaters are free from paper, drapes/curtains, blankets, etc. (3 ft rule) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Professional inspected furnace and water heater within a year (according to owner) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Home has at least one Carbon Monoxide alarm, tested monthly and change batteries | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | All throw rugs are skid-proof and lie flat on the floor. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A sturdy step-stool available for reaching objects on high shelves. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cleaning products secure & out of reach of children | |

NOTES:

AGE APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM GUIDE

AGES 3-5

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

- To introduce young children to the firefighter and topic of fire safety in a method they can relate to.
- Personnel will explain/demonstrate:
 - Smoke Alarm Awareness
 - Home Fire Escape
 - Calling 9-1-1
 - Toys and Tools
- Will also give station tour/equipment demonstration

Message:

- Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting. It is best to use first names, such as “Firefighter Joe.” Young children do not understand the use of rank, so everyone is a “firefighter”
- For this age group always try to use positive messages, if you say things like “Don’t Hide” studies show all they hear is “Hide.” Also, be very cautious asking for questions, you will most likely get stories instead.
- It is suggested that the tour of the engine, ambulance, and other apparatus be left to the end of the tour.
- The following points can be covered at any point during tour:
 - Smoke Alarm Awareness – Point to the one on the ceiling of your station (make sure you have one and it is working!) Briefly explain what it does (smells for smoke all the time) and demonstrate the noise it makes. Stress getting out and staying out if it sounds.
 - **Adults:** *Express importance that working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, smoke alarms that don’t have nonreplaceable batteries, replace batteries at least once a year and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.*
 - Home Fire Escape – Talk to them about if smoke alarm sounds to “Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go” under smoke and go outside to meeting place they talked about with family.
 - **Adults:** *Express importance of making an escape plan and practicing their home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the home. Practice at night and during the daytime.*
 - Calling 9-1-1 – Talk about when to call this number, describe what is an emergency, and tell them how to call it. Stress that 9-1-1 will ask them where they are and what kind of emergency they are having.
 - Toys and Tools – Talk to them about the difference between a toy that kids can play with and a tool that adults use (not play with). Remind them to point tools left out to an adult and have adult pick them up. Good to teach this right before showing them the apparatus because you can say that the fire truck has a lot of tools on them and it is not for kids to play with but for adults to use.
 - Apparatus tour – Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance. Keep in mind the age group you are instructing (they don’t care about GPMs, psi, etc.) Let children look inside the apparatus, or walk through it (up to each crew.) Always keep safety in mind (yours, as well as theirs.)

- “Friendly Firefighter” – Have a firefighter dress out for the children VERY SLOWLY, while someone explains what each piece of equipment is and what it protects. Again, make sure explanations are age appropriate. Always be aware of the comfort level of the children. If they are getting scared or starting to cry, stop what you are doing, try to make them more comfortable, and proceed if possible. If the group is rather skittish you may want to put on gear but maybe not mask and pack.

AGES 6-8

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

- To build on messages that children have started to learn to protect themselves and get them to take the message of fire safety home.
- Personnel will explain/demonstrate:
- Smoke Alarm Awareness
 - Home Fire Escape
 - Calling 9-1-1
 - Toys and Tools
 - Good and Bad Fire
- Will also give station tour/equipment demonstration

Message:

- Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting. It is best to use first names, such as “Firefighter Joe.”
- It is suggested that the tour of the engine, ambulance, and other apparatus be left to the end of the tour.
- The following points can be covered at any point during tour or presentation:
 - Smoke Alarm Awareness – Explain what it does (smells for smoke all the time) and why it is important. Explain that there should be one outside of every sleeping area and you need to test it monthly. Stress getting out and staying out if it sounds.
 - **Adults:** *Express importance that working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, smoke alarms that don’t have nonreplaceable batteries, replace batteries at least once a year and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.*
 - Home Fire Escape – Talk to them about if smoke alarm sounds at night: Get out of bed and feel closed door. If hot, find another way out.
 - If it is not hot, “Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go.” Under smoke and get outside to meeting place they talked about with parents.
 - Once out, stay out.
 - **Adults:** *Express importance of practicing their home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.*
 - Calling 9-1-1 – Remember the 4 “W’s”: Who you are, where you are, what’s happening, and wait for questions. Stress that they need to know their address.

- Matches and Lighters as Tools – Talk to them about the difference between a toy that kids can play with and a tool that adults use (not play with). Remind them to point tools left out to an adult and have adult pick them up. Good to teach this right before showing them the apparatus because you can say that the fire truck has a lot of tools on them and it is not for kids to play with, but for adults to use.
- Good Fire, Bad Fire — Ensure that students understand examples of good fires and bad fires, and that fire is not always bad (i.e. cooking, heating, lighting.) Discuss how good fires can become a bad fire (we don't pay attention, the wrong people using, etc.) Emphasize that fire is a tool.
- Apparatus tour – Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance. Keep in mind the age group you are instructing (they don't care about GPMs, psi, etc.) Let children look inside the apparatus, or walk through it (up to each crew.) Always keep safety in mind (yours, as well as theirs.) They do not need to be climbing on other parts of the apparatus.
- “Friendly Firefighter” – Have a firefighter dress out for the children slowly, while explaining what each piece is and why it is important

AGES 9-11

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

- To build on messages that children have started to learn to protect themselves and get them to take the message of fire safety home.
- Personnel will explain/demonstrate:
 - Fire Prevention
 - Smoke Alarm Testing and Maintenance
 - Home Fire Escape
 - Cooking Safety
 - Stop, Drop, and Roll
- Will also give station tour/equipment demonstration
- It is also appropriate to stress the “big brother/big sister” responsibility in fire safety and prevention.

Message:

- Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting. Use of last names is more appropriate at this age along with the use of rank.
- It is suggested that the tour of the engine, ambulance, and other apparatus be left to the end of the tour.
- The following points can be covered at any point during tour:
 - Fire Prevention – Ask students to identify major causes of fires in homes. Stress that most are preventable, and are usually caused by some kind of human error.
 - Smoke Alarm Testing and Maintenance – Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Should be one in every sleeping area, outside each sleeping area and on every level of home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable batteries, replace batteries at least once a year and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

- Home Fire Escape – Talk about the importance of home fire escape planning and drills. This discussion should include:
 - Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all windows and doors. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
 - Go to each room and point to the two ways out.
 - Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - Practice using different ways out.
 - Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
 - If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.
 - Close doors behind you as you leave.
 - Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
 - Go to your outside meeting place.
 - After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.
 - **Adults:** *Express importance of practicing their fire escape plan at home and teaching your children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them. Make sure they can open windows, remove screens, and unlock doors.*
- Cooking Safety – Discuss hazards associated with the kitchen (hot water, cooking.) Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Discuss turning pot handles inward and never leaving cooking unattended. Microwave safety is a good topic for this age group.
- Stop, Drop, and Roll – If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out. Discuss reason for not running (flames get bigger because adding oxygen.)
- Review match and lighter safety and calling 9-1-1
- Apparatus tour – Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance. Always keep safety in mind (yours, as well as theirs.) They do not need to be climbing on other parts of the apparatus.
- “Friendly Firefighter” – Have a firefighter dress out for the kids. Quick dress may be more appropriate for this age group. You can also go into more detail about the gear (weight, importance of liners, etc.)

AGES 12-15

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

- Introduce teens to fire service careers
- Personnel will explain/demonstrate:
 - Home Fire Safety
 - Smoke Alarm Testing and Maintenance
 - Home Fire Escape
 - Burn Prevention
- Will also give station tour/equipment demonstration

Message:

- Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting.
- Begin to treat this age group as adults – you will get further this way!
- The following topics can be covered at any point during tour:
 - Fire Service as a career
 - Different jobs within the Fire Service
 - Working Hours
 - Salary
 - Educational Requirements – Stress High School Diploma, College, EMT/Paramedic Training
 - Physical aspects of Job
 - Benefits
 - Home Fire Safety:
 - Space Heaters: All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
 - Burn treatment: Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
 - Cooking: Supervising children while cooking - Discuss turning pot handles inward and never leave cooking unattended.
 - Electrical appliances
 - Matches and Lighters: Keep lighters and matches up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
 - Smoke Alarm Installation and Maintenance:
 - Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
 - For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
 - Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
 - Assume responsibility for these things at home.

- Home Fire Escape – Talk about the importance of home fire escape planning and drills. This discussion should include:
 - Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all windows and doors. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
 - Go to each room and point to the two ways out.
 - Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - Practice using different ways out.
 - Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
 - If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.
 - Close doors behind you as you leave.
 - Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
 - Go to your outside meeting place.
 - After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.
 - Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
- Apparatus tour – Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance.
- “Friendly Firefighter” – Quick dress may be more appropriate for this age group. You can also go into more detail about the gear (weight, importance of liners, etc.)

GEORGIA STANDARDS RELATING TO FIRE/EMERGENCY SERVICES

The performance standards approved by the Georgia Board of Education provide clear expectations for instruction, assessment, and student work for Georgia teachers. The standards in their entirety can be found at <https://www.georgiastandards.org>. The performance standards isolate and identify the skills needed to use the knowledge and skills to problem-solve, reason, communicate, and make connections with other information. They also tell the teacher how to assess the extent to which the student knows the material or can manipulate and apply the information. The fire service can use the standards as an entry into the schools, talk with educators about fitting into their curriculum as a resource where everyone benefits.

The Georgia Standards are broken down into different subjects with fire/emergency services falling most often in Health Education, Science, and Social Studies.

SS - Social Studies

HE - Health Education

S - Science

Kindergarten

Georgia Standards

- **SSKH2** The student will identify important American symbols and explain their meaning.
 - Utilize Honor Guard or Fire Service to demonstrate care and respect of flag.
 - The national and state flags (United States and Georgia flags)
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Star Spangled Banner
- **SSKCG2** The student will retell stories that illustrate positive character traits and will explain how the people in the stories show the qualities of honesty, patriotism, loyalty, courtesy, respect, truth, pride, self-control, moderation, and accomplishment.
 - Utilize Honor Guard or Fire Service to demonstrate care and respect of flag.
- **SSKE1** The student will describe the work that people do (police officer, firefighter, soldier, mail carrier, baker, farmer, doctor, and teacher).
 - Firefighter/EMS as career
- **HEK.3** Demonstrate how to get help from a trusted adult when sick or hurt.
- **HEK.3** Demonstrate how to get help from a trusted adult when someone is having an asthma episode, allergic reaction, or other emergency health problem.
- **HEK.1a** Identify safety hazards in the home.
- **HEK.1a** Explain the importance of using safety belts and motor vehicle booster seats.
- **HEK.3** Demonstrate how to dial 911 or other emergency numbers and provide appropriate information.
- **HEK.4b** Demonstrate the ability to access important phone numbers to get help in emergencies.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (Kindergarten)

- **9-1-1**
 - Identify what would be considered an emergency.
 - Dial 9-1-1 in the case of emergency from cell phone or neighbor's house.

- Explain when someone should call 9-1-1.
- Roleplaying with calling 9-1-1 and answering questions appropriately and following directions.
- **Fire Safety**
 - Identifies “Good” and “Bad” fires and heat sources.
 - Identifies "hot" and "cold" symbols.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - States rule to stay aware from hot objects.
 - Demonstrates actions in school exit drills and severe weather.
 - Demonstrates telling an adult if he/she sees matches/lighters.
 - Demonstrates or illustrates staying away from campfire, trash burning, etc.
 - Identifies firefighters and other fire service workers as friends/community helpers.
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - By law use a car seat with harness or booster seat until at least age 8. You need to be in a seat until you’re 4’9”.
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat.
 - Draw a picture to encourage classmates to use a booster seat or car seat.

1st Grade

Georgia Standards

- **S1P1** Students will investigate light and sound.
 - Using sirens and lights on fire engine.
 - Recognize sources of light.
 - Differentiate between various sounds in terms of (pitch) high or low and (volume) loud or soft.
 - Identify emergency sounds and sounds that help us stay safe.
- **SS1H1** The student will read about and describe the life of historical figures in American history.
 - History of Fire Service, what it looked like and Benjamin Franklin as founder.
 - Identify the contributions made by Benjamin Franklin (firefighter/inventor/author/statesman).
 - Describe how everyday life of these historical figures is similar to and different from everyday life in the present (food, clothing, homes, transportation, communication, recreation).
- **HE 1.3b** Demonstrate ways to seek help from trusted adults.
- **HE1.1** Recognize that injuries can be prevented.
- **HE1.1a** Identify safety rules for being around fire.
- **HE 1.1a** State how to be a safe pedestrian.
- **HE 1.2a** Explain the influence of family in preventing injuries.
- **HE 1.2b** Describe how rules at school can help prevent injury.
- **HE 1.3b** Demonstrate how to dial 911 or other emergency numbers and provide appropriate information.
- **HE 1.7b** Demonstrate actions to avoid accidental poisoning by household products.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (1st Grade)

- **9-1-1**
 - Dial 9-1-1 in the case of emergency from cell phone or neighbor’s house.
 - Demonstrate how to report a dangerous situation to an adult.

- **Fire Safety**
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
 - Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups, not toys for children.
 - If your friends want to start a fire, walk away, and tell an adult.
 - Fireworks are hot and dangerous, use only with the help of an adult.
 - Remind grown-ups to blow candles out when leaving the room.
 - Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water.
 - Encourage parent to conduct a home inspection.
 - Describes firefighter as community helper who helps prevent fires and who puts out fires.
- **Fire Escape Planning**
 - Demonstrate proper safety procedures to follow when exiting a burning building.
 - States steps and rules for school exit drill.
 - Make a home fire escape plan.
 - Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - By law use a car seat with harness or booster seat until at least age 8. You need to be in a seat until you're 4'9".
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Ride with a buddy.
 - Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride. Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
 - Look both ways before crossing the street.
 - Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.
- **Poison Safety**
 - Take only medicine from a trusted adult.

2nd Grade

Georgia Standards

- **S2P2** Students will identify sources of energy and how the energy is used.
 - Firefighters talking about heat energy.
 - Identify sources of light energy, heat energy, and energy of motion.
 - Describe how light, heat, and motion energy are used.

- **HE 2.1** Identify what to do if you see a weapon or other hazardous item.
- **HE 2.1** Identify safety hazards in the community.
- **HE 2.7a** Demonstrate safe pedestrian behaviors.
- **HE 2.7b** Apply strategies to avoid fires and burns.
- **HE 2** Demonstrate the ability to influence safety practices of family members.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (2nd grade)

- **Fire Safety**
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
 - Explains using cool water to reduce burn injury.
 - Explains that smoke and gases from fire can affect thinking.
 - Describes benefit of family working together to reduce fire and burn hazards.
 - Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups, not toys for children.
 - If your friends want to start a fire, walk away, and tell an adult.
 - Remind grown-ups to blow candles out when leaving the room.
 - Describes general guidelines for smoke alarm placement (in sleeping rooms, one on each level, and outside bedrooms).
 - Understands that fireworks are hot and dangerous, use only with the help of an adult.
 - Identifies ways that firefighters are involved in fire suppression and prevention.
 - If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- **Fire Escape Planning**
 - States steps and rules for school exit drill.
 - Make a home fire escape plan.
 - Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- **Cooking Safety**
 - Only use a microwave with a grown up's permission.
 - Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - Identify safe ways to ride in a vehicle
 - By law use a car seat with harness or booster seat until at least age 8. You need to be in a seat until you're 4'9".
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Create a poster showing safety gear used when bicycling.
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Ride with a buddy.

- Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride.
- Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
- Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

3rd Grade

Georgia Standards

- **S3P1** Students will investigate how heat is produced and the effects of heating and cooling, and will understand a change in temperature indicates a change in heat.
 - Fire
 - Categorize ways to produce heat energy such as burning, rubbing (friction), and mixing one thing with another.
 - Investigate how insulation affects heating and cooling.
 - Investigate the transfer of heat energy from the sun to various materials.
- **S3L2** Students will recognize the effects of pollution and humans on the environment.
 - Explain the effects of pollution (smoke or hazardous materials) to the habitats of plants and animals.
- **HE 3.1** List ways to prevent injuries at home.
- **HE 3.1** Explain how injuries can be prevented.
- **HE 3.1** Identify ways to reduce risk of injuries in case of fire.
- **HE 3.1** Identify ways to reduce risk of injuries while riding in a motor vehicle.
- **HE 3.1** Identify ways to reduce risk of injuries as a pedestrian.
- **HE 3.3a,b** Identify accurate sources of information about how to prevent injury.
- **HE 3.7** Demonstrate ability to develop and execute a fire escape plan.
- **HE 3.4** Demonstrate what to say when calling 9-1-1.
- **HE 3.6a** Make a personal commitment to use appropriate protective gear during physical activity and to be safe.
- **HE 3.7a** Demonstrate safe pedestrian behaviors.
- **HE 3.1b** Identify potential dangerous situations and whom to call for help.
- **HE 3** Demonstrate the ability to access phone numbers to get help in emergencies.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (3rd grade)

- **9-1-1**
 - Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
 - Never dial 9-1-1 as a prank.
 - Describes or demonstrates what to report in an emergency situation.
- **Fire Safety**
 - Smoke alarm testing and battery change.
 - Identifies the sound of a smoke alarm and low battery chirp.

- Describes how firestarters can be used safely.
- If your friends want to start a fire, walk away, and tell an adult.
- Identifies fire safety for holidays in each month.
- Remind grown-ups to blow candles out when leaving the room.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- **Fire Escape Planning**
 - Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
 - Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
 - Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
 - If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
 - Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- **Cooking Safety**
 - Only use a microwave with a grown up's permission.
 - Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - By law use a car seat with harness or booster seat until at least age 8. You need to be in a seat until you're 4'9".
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Ride with a buddy.
 - Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride.
 - Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
 - Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
 - Look both ways before crossing the street.
 - Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
 - Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

4th Grade

Georgia Standards

- **S4P3** Students will demonstrate the relationship between the application of a force and the resulting change in position and motion on an object.
 - Using Technical Rescue/Rope Teams
 - Identify simple machines and explain their uses (lever, pulley, wedge, inclined plane, screw, wheel and axle).
 - Firefighters/Injury Prevention in relation to seat belts
 - Using different size objects, observe how force affects speed and motion.
 - Explain what happens to the speed or direction of an object when a greater force than the initial one is applied.
 - Demonstrate the effect of gravitational force on the motion of an object.
- **HE 4.1** List ways to prevent injuries at school.
- **HE 4.1** Identify ways to reduce risk of injuries around water.
- **HE 4.1** Describe the use of safety equipment for specific physical activities.
- **HE 4.2a,b** Describe external influences that could lead to unintentional injury.
- **HE 4.1a** Describe risky behaviors and their health consequences.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (4th grade)

- **Fire Safety**
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
 - Lists and describes effects of toxic gases in smoke and fire byproducts.
 - Describes types of hazards from discarded cigarettes and other firestarters.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
 - Demonstrates reactions to hazardous situations, including removal of fire hazards.
 - Identifies safety features in school, home and other buildings.
 - Demonstrates resisting peer pressure related to fire, matches and smoking.
 - Describes local locations and uses of fire alarm boxes.
- **Fire Escape Planning**
 - Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
 - Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
 - Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
 - Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
 - If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.

- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone.
- **Water Safety**
 - Ask a grownup before going into the water.
 - Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake.
 - Discuss the possible consequences of swimming alone.
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - Pass the 5 Step Test to get out of a booster seat:
 - Can you sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
 - Can your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
 - Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
 - Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
 - Can you stay seated like this for the entire trip?
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Ride with a buddy.
 - Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride.
 - Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
 - Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops. Look both ways before crossing the street.
 - Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
 - Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

5th Grade

Georgia Standards

- **SS5E2** The student will describe the functions of four major sectors in the U. S. economy.
 - Basic explanation of taxes and how supports the community
 - Describe the government function in taxation and providing certain goods and services.
- **HE 5.1** Explain the behavioral and environmental factors associated with the major causes of death in the United States.
- **HE 5.1** List ways to prevent injuries in the community.
- **HE 5.1** List examples of dangerous or risky behaviors that might lead to injuries.
- **HE 5.8** Demonstrate ways to publicly campaign to help promote safety and prevent unintentional injuries.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (5th grade)

- 9-1-1
 - Identifies hazard of false alarms, especially relating to wasting resources.
- **Fire Safety**
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
 - Explains hazards of heating equipment, including safety considerations such as UL inspection certification and proper placement
 - Analyzes safety of alternative heating
 - Describes hazards of intentional fires, especially relating to waste and loss of resources and how it impacts the health and safety of others.
- **Fire Escape Planning**
 - Evaluates school exit drill
 - Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
 - Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
 - Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
 - Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
 - If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
 - Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
 - Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- **Kitchen Safety**
 - Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
 - Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
 - Never leave small children alone in the bathroom or kitchen.
 - Demonstrate proper procedures and basic first aid treatment for a choking victim.
- **Water Safety**
 - Ask a grownup before going into the water.
 - Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake.
 - Always swim with a buddy.
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - Pass the 5 Step Test to get out of a booster seat:
 - Can you sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
 - Can your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
 - Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
 - Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
 - Can you stay seated like this for the entire trip?

- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.
- **Fall Prevention**
 - Pick up your belongings and never leave them on steps.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Ride with a friend.
 - Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride.
 - Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
 - Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops. Look both ways before crossing the street.
 - Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
 - Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.
- **Firearm Safety**
 - If you see a gun; stop, don't touch, leave the area, and tell a grown up.
 - Tell an adult if a friend plays with a gun.
- **Poison Safety**
 - Take only medicine from a trusted adult.

6th Grade

Georgia Standards (General)

- Fire physics
- Electrical hazards and responding to those hazards
- Continuation of first aid for burns
- Practice ways to reduce or prevent injuries.
- Identify service activities being offered in the community.
- List kinds of safety technology found in the home.
- Decide what actions should be taken when an unsafe situation occurs.
- Analyze the benefits of avoiding risky health behaviors.
- Plan with others to make signs promoting safety to place in an elementary school.
- Identify the importance of being responsible for health behaviors.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (6th grade)

- **9-1-1**
 - Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
 - Prepares timeline in response to emergency sighting and reporting.
 - Explains why to report smoke or suspected fire promptly.
- **Fire Safety (General)**
 - Describes three types of fire extinguishers.

- Make sure candles are out when leaving the room.
- Develops holiday checklist that applies fire safety rules.
- Examine how environmental dangers such as severe weather or hazardous materials release impact personal health and wellness.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- **Smoke Alarms**
 - Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
 - Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
 - For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
 - Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- **Fire Escape Planning**
 - Analyzes prepared maps of other locations to show appropriate alarm placement.
 - Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
 - Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
 - Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
 - Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
 - If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
 - Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
 - Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- **Cooking Safety**
 - The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
 - To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert.
 - Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
 - Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
 - Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.

- Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- Stir microwaved foods and beverages well before eating them.
- Never leave small children alone in the kitchen.
- **Burns**
 - Classifies six types of burns by causes (contact, UV, chemical, etc.).
 - Describes special first aid actions for burns other than contact burns.
 - Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
 - Go to your local emergency room, call 9-1-1, or see your doctor if the burn is serious.
 - Describes professionals involved in emergency response and burn care.
- **Water Safety**
 - Ask a grownup before going into the water
 - Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake
 - Always swim with a buddy
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - Pass the 5 Step Test to get out of a booster seat:
 - Can you sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
 - Can your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
 - Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
 - Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
 - Can you stay seated like this for the entire trip?
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Ride with a friend.
 - Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
 - Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
 - Cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
 - Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

7th Grade

Georgia Standards (General)

- Responsible decision-making regarding fire and burn hazards, including peer pressure related to fire risks.
- Preparation for and reaction to possible emergency situations.
- Describe how immediate health care can promote individual health.
- Describe the importance of seeking health care when experiencing a health issue.
- Predict the risk of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- Identify environmental conditions (e.g., smoke conditions, hazardous material release, and severe weather) that are potentially harmful to personal health.

- Examine a list of local health facilities and health support services in your community.
- Give examples of possible dangers associated with the use of alcohol and other drug use.
- Predict the risk of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- Identify how safety technology can be used to improve personal health.
- Demonstrate how to access a trusted adult who can help someone who may have been injured or poisoned.
- Summarize the importance of wearing protective gear in high-impact activities.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (7th grade)

- **9-1-1**
 - Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
 - Describes how to discourage false alarms
- **Fire Safety (General)**
 - Analyzes product labels for fire safety, including flammable or combustible warnings, nonflammable label
 - Describes safe practices with fire hazards commonly found in home or outdoors
 - Develops and implements home survey instrument
 - Make sure candles are out when leaving the room
 - Describes alternative behaviors to peer pressure related to firesetting and smoking
 - Identifies arson as a crime
 - Writes at least five rules for using firestarters
 - If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- **Smoke Alarms**
 - Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
 - Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
 - For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
 - Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- **Fire Escape Planning**
 - Organizes an obstructed drill at school or home
 - Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
 - Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- Once outside, do not go back in for anything.
- **Cooking Safety**
 - The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
 - To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert.
 - Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
 - Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
 - Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
 - Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
 - Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
 - Stir microwaved foods and beverages well before eating them.
 - Never leave small children alone in the kitchen.
 - Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
- **Water Safety**
 - Ask a grownup before going into the water
 - Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake
 - Always swim with a buddy
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
 - Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
 - Cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
 - Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

8th Grade

Georgia Standards

- **S8P2** Students will be familiar with the forms and transformations of energy.
 - Basic Fire Science
 - Compare and contrast the different forms of energy (heat, light, electricity, mechanical motion, and sound) and their characteristics.
 - Describe how heat can be transferred through matter by the collisions of atoms (conduction) or through space (radiation). In a liquid or gas, currents will facilitate the transfer of heat (convection).
- **S8P3** Students will investigate relationship between force, mass, and the motion of objects.
 - Using Technical Rescue/Ropes Team
 - Demonstrate the effect of simple machines (lever, inclined plane, pulley, wedge, screw, and wheel and axle) on work.
- **SS8E4** The student will identify revenue sources for and services provided by state and local governments.
 - Basic explanation of taxes and how supports the community
 - Trace sources of state revenue such as sales taxes, federal grants, personal income taxes, and property taxes.
 - Explain the distribution of state revenue to provide services.
 - Evaluate how choices are made given the limited revenues of state and local governments.
- **SS8E5** The student will explain personal money management choices in terms of income, spending, credit, saving, and investing.
- Technical aspects of fire hazards and detection;
- Fire hazards outside the home
- Describes desire to be safe and to keep others safe
- Investigate the effects stress has on personal health by researching different high stress-related occupations (e.g., ambulance drivers, high-rise construction workers).
- Collect information on injuries that are prevalent in adolescents and list ways they could be avoided.
- Examine the likelihood of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- Describe how alcohol use can lead to poor decision-making.
- Show how a peer group can have a negative influence on behaviors.
- Predict the possible outcomes of participating in unhealthy behaviors and compile a list of health services which relate to the outcome.
- Make a list of possible hazards around the community and describe the potential dangers of the hazards.
- Learn standard First Aid skills that could assist with sudden illness or injuries.

Teaching Ideas for Health Educations (8th grade)

- **9-1-1**
 - Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
 - Identifies hazard of false alarms, especially relating to wasting resources
- **Fire Safety**
 - Lists at least 10 typical hazards in the workplace, including industrial, retail and office
 - Make sure candles are out when leaving the room

- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Describes basic function of sprinklers, including residential fast response sprinklers
- Investigates community laws on fireworks
- **Smoke Alarms**
 - Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
 - Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
 - For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
 - Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- **Escape Planning**
 - Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
 - Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
 - Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
 - Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
 - Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
 - If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
 - Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
 - Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- **Cooking Safety**
 - The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
 - To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert.
 - Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
 - Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
 - Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
 - Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- Stir microwaved foods and beverages well before eating them.
- Never leave small children alone in the kitchen.
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
- **Water Safety**
 - Ask a grownup before going into the water.
 - Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake.
 - Always swim with a buddy.
- **Child Passenger Safety**
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Back seat is the safest place to ride.
- **Bike Safety**
 - Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
 - Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
 - Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
 - Cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
 - Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

High School

Georgia Standards

Forensic Science

- **SFS4** Students will evaluate the role of ballistics, tool marks and evidence of arson in forensic investigation.
 - Arson Investigator
 - Recognize the forensic significance of tool marks, footwear and tire impressions in an investigation.
 - Evaluate possible indicators of arson and criminal bombing.

Economics

- **SSEPF1** The student will apply rational decision making to personal spending and saving choices.
 - Fire
 - Explain that people respond to positive and negative incentives in predictable ways.
 - Use a rational decision making model to select one option over another.
- **SSEPF5** The student will describe how insurance and other risk-management strategies protect against financial loss.
 - Discuss Fire Insurance, Sprinklers, Alarms
 - List various types of insurance such as automobile, health, life, disability, and property.
 - Explain the costs and benefits associated with different types of insurance; include deductibles, premiums, shared liability, and asset protection.

US History

- **SSUSH2** The student will trace the ways that the economy and society of British North America developed.
 - History of Fire Service, what it looked like and Benjamin Franklin as founder
 - Identify Benjamin Franklin as a symbol of social mobility and individualism.

Ag Science

- Forestry and Firewise

Architecture and Construction

- Inspections
- Building Construction and withstanding heat, collapse times,
- Safety equipment and features

Environmental Science

- Describe the effects and potential implications of pollution and resource depletion on the environment at the local and global levels (*e.g.* air and water pollution, solid waste disposal, depletion of the stratospheric ozone, global warming, and land uses).

Health Science

- Public Safety Communications
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Patient Care

Culinary Arts/Food and Nutrition

- Kitchen Safety
- Fire Extinguishers

Health Education

- Review of fire and burn prevention techniques and emergency actions.
- Awareness of needs of all age groups
- Awareness of adult responsibilities to preserve family, property and economy
- Preparation for maintaining one's own home
- US history of fire and burn incidents
- Describes general accident prevention and wellness needs of children, those with disabilities, and senior citizen.
- Research and rank the ten leading causes of unintentional death and their risk factors.
- Propose ways to reduce or prevent injuries and health problems.
- Identify a variety of behaviors that avoid or reduce risks to self and others.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (High School)

- **9-1-1**
 - Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
 - Identifies hazard of false alarms, especially relating to wasting resources
 - Make sure your house number can be seen from the street both day and night.
 - Demonstrate how to access a trusted adult who can help someone experiencing a potentially life threatening health condition (e.g., asthma attack, seizure).
- **Fire Safety**
 - Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
 - Teach young children to tell a grownup when they find matches or lighters and to never touch matches or lighters.
 - Defines terminology relating to fire insurance and home safety.
 - Explains effects of business or residential fire on community.
 - Describes the economic impact of fires and related casualties in the US.
 - If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
 - Describes role of carelessness in fires and burn injuries, including cigarettes, heating and cooking.
 - Analyze the consequences of youth firesetting for oneself, for one's family, and for the community.
- **Smoke Alarms**
 - Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
 - Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
 - Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
 - Smoke alarms with nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
 - For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
 - Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
 - Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- **Escape Planning**
 - Organizes and conducts comprehensive home inspection, including outdoors and nonliving areas.
 - Use and evaluate safety techniques to avoid and reduce injury (e.g., earthquakes, fire, flood).
 - Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
 - Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
 - Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
 - A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- **Candle Safety**
 - Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.
 - When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.
 - Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
 - Never leave a burning candle unattended. Burning candles can start a fire.
 - Avoid using candles in bedrooms, bathrooms, and sleeping areas. Extinguish candles when you leave a room or the home or go to bed.
 - Keep children and pets away from burning candles.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO)**
 - Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms (CO) outside each separate sleeping area, on every level of the home.
 - Test carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month and replace them if they fail to respond when tested. The sensors in CO alarms have a limited life.
 - If the audible low-battery signal sounds, replace the batteries or replace the device.
 - Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, coal stoves, space heaters, and portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year.
- **Cooking Safety**
 - The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
 - Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
 - To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.
 - Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
 - Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
- **Burns**
 - To prevent scalds, Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Teach children that hot things burn.
 - Place objects so they cannot be pulled down or knocked over.
 - Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
 - If children are in the home, do not leave the bathroom while the tub is filling.
 - Go to your local emergency room, call 9-1-1, or see your doctor if the burn is serious.
- **Water Safety**

- Carry a personal floatation device for everyone in the watercraft.
- Have children wear their flotation device while riding in the boat.
- Supervise children while swimming and have kids swim with a buddy.
- Do not allow kids to rely upon personal flotation devices to aid them in swimming in waters beyond their capability.
- Never leave a young child alone in the bathtub.
- Drowning is quick and quiet.
- **Motor Vehicle Safety**
 - Use the appropriate child safety seat, booster seat or seat belt, when children are passengers in your car. Children under age are required by law to be in a car seat.
 - Back seat is the safest place in the car.
 - Reinforce the importance of school bus safety rules.
 - Debate the laws concerning the use of cell phones while driving a car.
 - Argue the use of seatbelts in public transportation and school buses versus private vehicles.
 - Write a letter to your classmates encouraging them to avoid distractions while driving.
- **Bike Safety**
 - All cyclists should wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing. Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
 - Teach children to ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
 - Teach children to cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
 - Teach children to never dart into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully scan for traffic before entering the street.
 - When driving, stop at crosswalk markings to let pedestrians cross safely.

January

“Stay Warm, Stay Safe”

Week 1 – Carbon Monoxide Hazards
Week 2 – Heating Safety: Space Heaters
Week 3 – Pet Fire Safety
Week 4 – Manufactured Home Safety

EVENTS:

New Year’s Day Holiday

MLK Day of Service



JANUARY WEEK 1

CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARDS

Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a gas you cannot see, taste or smell. It is often called “the invisible killer.” It is created when fossil fuels, such as kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, methane, or wood do not burn completely. CO gas can kill people and pets.
- CO poisoning can result from malfunctioning or improperly vented furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left running in garages.
- Headache, nausea, and drowsiness are symptoms of CO poisoning. Exposure to CO can be fatal.



Installation of CO Alarms

- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
- When traveling or staying away from home, bring a travel CO alarm.
- Install and maintain CO alarms outside each separate sleeping area, on every level of the home, and in other locations as required by laws, codes, or standards. Follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions for placement and mounting height.
- For the best protection, have CO alarms that are interconnected throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- If you have combination smoke-carbon monoxide alarms, follow the directions for smoke alarm installation.
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms and vice versa. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and the sound of CO alarms.

Testing and Replacement

- Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace them if they fail to respond when tested. The sensors of CO alarms have a limited life. Replace the CO alarm according to manufacturer’s instructions or when the end-of-life signal sounds.
- Know the difference between the sound of the CO alarm and the smoke alarm, and the low battery signals. If the audible low-battery signal sounds, replace the batteries or replace the device. If the CO alarm still sounds, get to a fresh air location and call 9-1-1.
- To keep CO alarms working, follow manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.

Inside the Home

- Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, coal stoves, space heaters, and portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year.
- Open the damper for proper ventilation before using a fireplace.
- Never use an oven or stovetop to heat your home.
- Purchase heating and cooking equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Vent the exhaust from fuel-burning equipment to the outside to avoid CO poisoning. Keep the venting clear and unblocked.

The Garage

- Remove vehicles from the garage right away after starting. The CO gas can kill people and pets.
- Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor in a garage, even if garage doors are open.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked by snow, ice, or other materials.

Appliances

- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
- Always use barbecue grills outside, away from all doors, windows, vents and other building openings. Grills can produce CO gas. Never use grills inside the home or the garage, even if the doors are open.

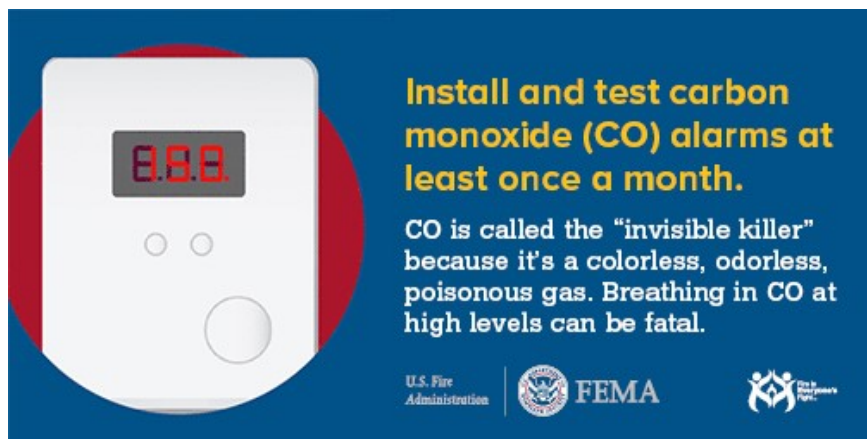
Portable Generators

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from the home.
- If you are using a portable generator, make sure you have battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup in the home.

If Your Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

- Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors.
- Call 9-1-1 from the fresh air location. Remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/fire-and-life-safety-equipment/carbon-monoxide> and United States Fire Administration (USFA) https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/carbon_monoxide.html



JANUARY WEEK 2

HEATING SAFETY: SPACE HEATERS

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.



General Tips

- Have a 3-foot (1 meter) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.
- Never use your oven or stove for heating. Ovens and stoves are not designed to heat your home.



Portable Electric Space Heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Purchase and use space heaters that have an automatic shut off – if they tip over, they shut off.
- Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them and their electrical cords away from things
- that can burn, high traffic areas, and

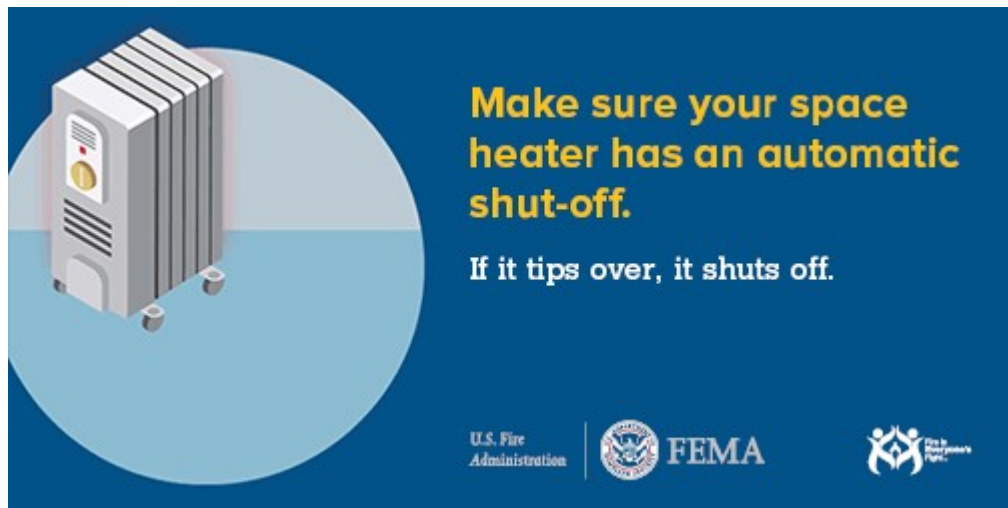
doorways.

- Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Do not plug anything else into the same circuit as the one you are using for your space heater. Doing so could result in overheating.
- Check often for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug does not fit snugly into the wall outlet or if the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced. Have a qualified electrician replace the wall outlet.
- Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace them before using the space heater.

Fuel-Burning Space Heaters

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool first and then refuel outside.
- When using the space heater, open a window to ensure proper ventilation.
- Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in some communities. Check with your local fire department before using.
- Use the proper grade of fuel in portable kerosene or other liquid- fueled space heaters.
- All new unvented gas-fired space heaters have an oxygen depletion sensor that detects a reduced level of oxygen in the area where the heater is operating and shuts off the heater before a hazardous level of carbon monoxide accumulates. If you have an older heater without this feature, replace it with one that does.
- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow 5 minutes or more for the gas to go away before trying to relight the pilot. Follow manufacturer’s instructions when relighting the pilot. Do not allow gas to accumulate, and light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot to avoid risk of flashback.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the building immediately and call 9-1-1 and the gas company.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating/heating-safety-tips> and USFA https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/winter_infographic.pdf



JANUARY WEEK 3

PET FIRE SAFETY

Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love. Our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives. But pets can cause fires. We need to be careful with pets in the home. Pets and wild animals have a part in starting about 700 home fires per year. Roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of these fires were started by cooking equipment, fireplaces or chimneys, lighting or candles.

Safety Tips

- Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

Prepare

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.
- Make sure pets are included in your family's wildfire evacuation plan.
- Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household. Ensure each kit is a size and weight that can be quickly and easily loaded into a vehicle when packing to evacuate.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/petsafetytips.pdf?as=1&iar=1&la=en>



JANUARY WEEK 4

MANUFACTURED HOME SAFETY



Manufactured homes are transportable structures that are fixed to a chassis and specifically designed to be towed to a residential site. They are not the same as modular or prefabricated homes, which are factory built and then towed in sections to be installed at a permanent location.

The federal government regulates construction of manufactured housing. Since 1976, manufactured homes have been required to comply with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) manufactured housing construction and safety standards, which cover a wide range of safety requirements, including fire safety. Post-1976 manufactured homes bear a label certifying compliance with these standards.

The HUD standard has been enhanced over the years and the HUD “Final Rule” for smoke alarms in manufactured homes is largely based upon NFPA 501. Today, new construction of manufactured housing is required to contain, among other provisions:

- Factory installed hard wired or 10 year battery source, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back-up (including alarms inside or immediately adjacent to all rooms designated as sleeping areas, top of the stairs and on the basement ceiling near the stairs)
- Provisions for special devices for hearing and visually impaired persons.

NFPA’s national fire data indicate that manufactured homes built to HUD standards have a much lower risk of death and a significantly reduced risk of injury if fire occurs compared to the pre-standard manufactured homes.

Despite the federal requirements for factory-installed smoke alarms, 38% of 1999 fires in post-HUD Standard manufactured homes were reported as having no smoke alarms present. Since the homes are required to be

sold with installed or readily installable smoke alarms, this suggests a problem with detection devices being removed by occupants.

Safety Tips

- **Choose a HUD-certified manufactured home:** If you are in the market to purchase or rent a manufactured home, select a home built after 1976 that bears the HUD label certifying compliance with safety standards.

- **Keep smoke alarms working:** Never remove or disable a smoke alarm. If you experience frequent nuisance alarms, consider relocating the alarm further away from kitchen cooking fumes or bathroom steam. Selecting a photoelectric smoke alarm for the areas nearest kitchens and baths may reduce the number of nuisance alarms experienced. As an alternative, NFPA



- 501 permits a smoke alarm with a silencing means to be installed if it is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance. Test all smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the "test" button. It is not necessary to use smoke or a real flame to test the smoke alarm's operability, and it is risky to do so. Replace batteries at least once a year, and when the alarm "chirps," signaling low battery power. Occasionally dust or lightly vacuum smoke alarms.
- **Make sure you have enough smoke alarms:** If your older manufactured home does not have smoke alarms in or near every sleeping room and in or near the family/living area(s), immediately install new alarms and fresh batteries to protect these rooms. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- **Plan your escape:** Know ahead of time how you will get out if you have a fire. Develop an escape plan which includes having an alternate exit out of every room. Make sure you can open and get out of windows and doors. All post-HUD Standard manufactured homes are required to provide windows designed for use as secondary escape routes for the bedroom. Familiarize yourself with their operation and don't block access to them. Immediately fix any windows that have been painted or nailed shut, doors that are stubborn or "stuck," and locks that are difficult to operate. Security bars or grates over windows or doors should have quick-release devices installed inside, which allow you to open them in an emergency. Hold a fire drill twice a year to rehearse how you will react if the smoke alarm sounds.
- **Electrical:** Hire a licensed electrician if you notice flickering lights, frequent blown circuits, or a "hot" smell when using electricity. Use extension cords for temporary convenience, not as a permanent solution. Avoid overloading electrical receptacles (outlets). Electrical cords should not be run under carpets or rugs, as the wires can be damaged by foot traffic, then overheat and ignite

the carpet or rug over them. Ground-fault circuit interrupters reduce the risk of electrical shock and should be installed by electricians in kitchens and baths. Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters monitor electric circuits for arcing and should be installed by electricians on bedroom circuits.

- **Cooking:** Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires in U.S. homes. Supervise older children who cook and stay in the kitchen when heating anything on the stove. Keep cooking surfaces clean and place anything that can burn well away from the range. Heat oil slowly and know how to slide a lid over a pan if you experience a grease fire. Read more cooking safety tips.
- **Heating:** Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. When purchasing new space heaters, select appliances with automatic shut-off switches. Kerosene heaters are illegal for home use in some jurisdictions. Check with your local fire department before purchasing a kerosene heater. Turn off portable space heaters before falling asleep or when leaving the room. Refill kerosene heaters outdoors, after the heater has cooled down. Supervise children and pets when space heaters are operating. Read more heating safety tips.
- **Walls:** All post-HUD Standard manufactured homes are required to have wall linings that do not promote rapid flame spread, with special protection around primary heating and cooking equipment, such as the furnace and cooking range. Presently, gypsum wallboard has replaced plywood wall paneling and wood based ceiling panels in the fabrication of manufactured housing walls and ceilings. This action has dramatically reduced the impact of fires in manufactured homes. Do not mount anything on the walls – such as paneling, drapery, or wall hangings – that would reduce this protection, especially near major heat sources.
- **Smoking:** If you have smokers in your home, ask them to smoke outside. Wherever people smoke, set out large, non-tip ashtrays on level surfaces and empty them frequently. Thoroughly douse butts with water before discarding. Check around and under cushions for smoldering butts. Read more smoking safety tips.
- **Protect yourself from intruders:** Install outdoor lighting to deter intruders, including would-be arsonists. Keep gasoline, charcoal lighter and other flammable liquids locked in an outdoor shed. Don't store items underneath your home. Store firewood away from your home and keep trash and other flammable debris cleaned up. Report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/fire-safety-in-manufactured-homes> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>



February

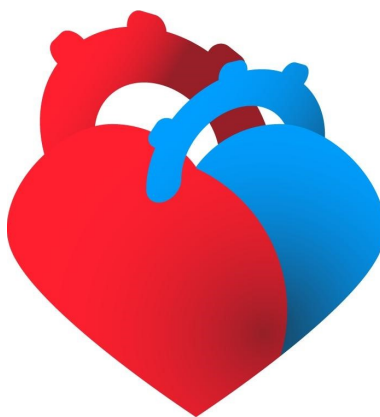
“Burn Awareness and Prevention”

Week 1 – Preventing Scalds and Burns
Week 2 – Fire Safety for Families
Week 3 – Kitchen Fire Safety
Week 4 – Candle Safety

EVENTS:

National Burn Awareness Week (First week in February)

American Heart Month



FEBRUARY WEEK 1

PREVENTING SCALDS AND BURNS

A scald injury can happen at any age. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities are especially at risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

Preventing Scalds and Burns in the Kitchen

- Teach children that hot things burn.
- Place objects so they cannot be pulled down or knocked over.
- Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.
- Keep appliance cords coiled and away from counter edges.
- Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.
- Use dry oven mitts or potholders. Hot cookware or tableware can heat moisture in a potholder or hot pad, resulting in a scald burn.
- If you have young children in the home, cook on the stove's back burners.
- When children are old enough, teach them to cook safely.
- Prepackaged microwavable soups are a frequent cause of scald burn injuries (especially noodle soups) because they can easily tip over, pouring hot liquid (and noodles) on the person.



Hot Tap Water and Scald Burns

- Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- For bathing and showering, the temperature of the water should not exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- If you do not install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads, adjust the thermostat setting on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The lower the temperature lowers the risk of scalds and burns.
- If you lower the temperature setting on your water heater, you will need to test the temperature at the faucet. Allow water to run 3-5 minutes. Test the water with a meat, candy or cooking thermometer. If the water is hotter than 120 degree, adjust the temperature of the water heater and wait a full day to allow the



temperature in the tank to adjust. Retest and readjust as needed.

- If children are in the home, do not leave the bathroom while the tub is filling.
- Before placing a child in the bath or getting into the tub yourself, test the water.
- Fill the tub or sink by running cool water first and then adding hot water. Turn the hot water off first. Mix the water thoroughly and check the temperature by moving your hand, wrist, and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- When bathing a young child, seat the child facing away from the faucets so the child cannot reach the faucet. Turn the faucet to the “COLD” position.
- Consider installing anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads to prevent scalds. These devices reduce the water flow to a trickle as the water temperature nears 120 degrees. Anti-scald devices are available online and in some hardware stores.



Treatment of Burns

- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
- Remove all clothing, diapers, jewelry, and metal from the burned area. These can hide underlying burns and retain heat, thereby increasing skin damage.
- Go to your local emergency room, call 9-1-1 or see your doctor if the burn is:
 - On the face, hands, feet, major joints, or genital area, and/or bigger than the injured person’s palm.
 - If the skin of the burn is white, tight, dry (leathery), or painless.
 - Caused by chemicals or electricity.
 - Causing difficulty breathing.
- See your doctor as soon as possible if the burn:
 - Does not heal in 2-3 days
 - Becomes foul smelling
 - Develops thick, drainage, redness or swelling
 - Causes a fever
 - Results in a large blister, wet weepy wound and/or severe pain

Information provided by NFPA

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/burn-awareness> and the American Burn Association <http://ameriburn.org/>

FEBRUARY WEEK 2

FIRE SAFETY FOR CHILDREN



- Below are some facts about children and fire safety. Teach your children the importance of fire-safe habits, and practice a home fire escape plan with them today.



Curious Kids Set Fires

- Children 14 and under make up 10-15% of all fire deaths.
- 52% of all child fire deaths involve those under 5. These children are usually unable to escape from a fire independently.
- At home, children often play with fire in bedrooms, in closets and under beds to avoid detection. These locations just so happen to contain a lot of flammable materials.
- Too often, child firesetters are not given proper guidance and supervision by parents and teachers. Consequently, they repeat their fire-setting behavior.

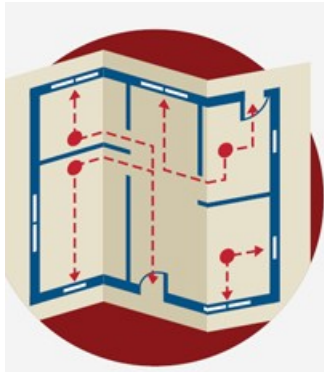
Check Your Smoke Alarms

- Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button
- For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



Create and Practice a Fire Escape Plan

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
- Teach your children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them. Make sure they can open windows, remove screens, and unlock doors.



Make a fire escape plan.

Talk to your family about what you should do if there is a fire. Practice your fire escape plan at least 2 times a year.

U.S. Fire Administration



- Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.

- If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Go to your outside meeting place.
- Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.

Keep Flammable Materials in Safe Areas

- Have a 3-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires, stoves, and space heaters.
- Turn space heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- If using gasoline-powered devices, store gasoline in a locked location where children cannot access it. Keep only small quantities in an approved container that has child safety features.



Don't Over Plug

- Appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord with a major appliance—it can easily overheat and start a fire.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician determine if additional circuits or wall outlets are needed.

Stay Focused Around the Kitchen

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains—away from your stovetop.

- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Keep anything that can catch fire, such as dish towels or wooden spoons, away from your stovetop.
- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.

Install Barriers Such as Safety Gates Around Fireplaces, Ovens and Furnaces

- Keep children and pets away from the outside vents. Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can remain dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Never burn trash in the fireplace. Not only is it cleaner for the environment, it also creates less buildup in the chimney.
- Closely supervise young children around fireplaces and wood stoves and use safety gates.

**Don't
Let Your
World
Go Up In
Smoke.
Home fires
are preventable.**



Blow Out Candles and Store Matches Out of Reach

- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and always blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.
- Keep matches, lighters, and novelty lighters high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- Purchase and use only child resistant lighters.
- Lighters that look like toys can confuse children and cause fires, injuries, and death. Do not buy or use them.
- Teach young children to tell a grownup when they find matches or lighters and to never touch matches or lighters.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/children.html>

FEBRUARY WEEK 3

KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

How often has the doorbell rung or a child interrupted you while you were cooking causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove – until smoke filled the house? This is an all too often occurrence nationwide. Latest statistics from NFPA say that two out of every five home fires started in the kitchen and more than 150,000 fires a year are related to cooking.

The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Fire departments and burn centers alike can attest to the devastation that can stem from unattended cooking. Often when fire departments are called to a cooking-related fire, the residents inform them that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes to go from routine to disaster.



Prevent Cooking Fires

- To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.
- Always stay in the kitchen when frying, boiling, grilling, and broiling food.
- Also, have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove.

If a *small* fire starts in a pan on the stove:

- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. Smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
- Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
- Never discharge a portable fire extinguisher into a grease fire because it will spread the fire.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed until it is cool. After a fire, the oven should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Treat a burn by putting it in cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies. Get medical help right away by calling 9-1-1.

Safe Cooking Equipment

- Always use cooking equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions and code requirements when installing, using, or cleaning cooking equipment. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions when cleaning and operating cooking

equipment.

- Plug microwave ovens or other cooking appliances directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance—it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- Check electrical cords for cracks, breaks, damage, or overheating. Have a professional repair the appliance or cord as needed, or replace the appliance.

Microwave Ovens

- Place or install the microwave oven at a safe height within easy reach of all users. If possible, the face of the person using the microwave oven should be higher than the front of the microwave oven door to reduce the risk of a scald.
- Always supervise children when they are using the microwave oven.
- Use only microwave-safe cookware (containers or dishes). Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven.
- Do not leave a microwave oven unattended when microwaving popcorn, since the heat buildup can cause fires. Heat the popcorn according to the written instructions.
- Open microwaved food away from the face. Hot steam escaping from a container of microwaved food or the food itself can cause burns.
- Verify the cooking time when using a microwave oven.
- Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven because it heats liquids unevenly. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- If your microwave oven is mounted over your stove, use extra caution.
- If you have a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately. This will stop the fan so it won't feed oxygen to the flames. Never open the oven door until the fire is out. If in doubt, call the fire department. When in doubt, just get out! If the fire is large, or you do not feel comfortable smothering it, alert everyone in the home and evacuate immediately. As you leave, close doors behind you to help contain the fire. Once safely outside, call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or a neighbor's telephone.



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/cooking.html>

FEBRUARY WEEK 4

CANDLE SAFETY

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires – and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means it can easily ignite anything that can burn. Roughly one-third of home candle fires started in the bedroom and more than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

General Candle Safety

- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.
- Protect candle flames with glass chimneys or containers.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Burning candles can start a fire.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms, bathrooms, and sleeping areas. Extinguish candles when you leave a room or a home, or go to bed. Keep children and pets away from burning candles.
- Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing a candle.
- Never use a candle where medical oxygen is being used. The two can combine to create a large, unexpected fire. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.
- Always use a flashlight – not a candle – for emergency lighting.
- Use only battery-powered lights in tents, trailers, motorhomes, and boats.



Candle Use in Home Worship

- Lit candles are used in some religious rites and ceremonies in the home. Candles should be used with care.
- Lit candles should not be placed in windows, where blinds and curtain can close over them, causing a fire.
- Handheld candles should not be passed from one person to another at any time.
- To lower the risk of fire, candles should be used by only a few designated adults.
- Candles placed on or near tables, altars or shrines must be maintained under the supervision of an adult.
- Place candles in sturdy, non-combustible candle holders that do not allow dripping wax to escape through the bottom of the holder.
- If a sturdy, non-combustible candle holder is not available, the candle can be placed on a non-combustible plate.
- A handheld candle should be put out before the person holding it moves from the place of initial lighting. Once it is put out, the candle should be placed in an approved, non-combustible container.
- The best way to avoid getting burned from splashed wax is to use a candle snuffer instead of blowing on the flame.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/candles>

March

“Spring into Home Fire Safety”

Week 1 – Smoke Alarms/9 volt Battery Safety

Week 2 – Apartment and Multifamily Dwellings

Week 3 – Medical Oxygen and Fire

Week 4 – Plan Your Escape

EVENTS:

American Red Cross Month

Poison Prevention Week (3rd full week)



MARCH WEEK 1

SMOKE ALARMS AND 9-VOLT BATTERY SAFETY

Fire Deaths – Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

- Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home.

Installation

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
- It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms, if you sleep with your doors closed.
- Smoke alarms can be interconnected electrically by a qualified electrician or by installing battery-operated wireless interconnected smoke alarms.
- For the best protection or where extra time is needed to awaken or assist others, both ionization smoke alarms and photoelectric smoke alarms or combination ionization-photoelectric alarms, also known as dual sensor smoke alarms, are recommended.
- An ionization smoke alarm, in general, is more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm, in general, is more responsive to smoldering fires.
- Choose a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Install smoke alarms away from the kitchen to prevent nuisance alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance.
- Photoelectric type smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen.

Testing and Maintenance

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working. The instructions are included in the package or can be found online.



People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, strobe lights flash to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing of a possible fire when they are awake.

- When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find the shaker along with a high intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.
- When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low- pitched sound alert device should be used to wake them. They may find a pillow or bed shaker is helpful to wake them. These devices are activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm.
- Choose smoke alarms and accessories for people who are deaf or hard of hearing that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.



Battery Replacement

- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms that don't have replaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Smoke Alarm Replacement

- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Replace any smoke alarm that does not respond after a new battery has been installed.
- Replace combination smoke-carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's recommendations.



Rental Housing

- All rental housing must have working smoke alarms. Landlords are required to provide smoke alarms under Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. §25-2-40)
- Be sure smoke alarms are installed in all rental housing. Contact your landlord, property manager, or fire department for help.
- Check with your local fire or building department for information about state and local ordinances on smoke alarm installation and maintenance in rental housing.
- Maintenance of the smoke alarms may be the responsibility of the landlord or the renter, depending on the rental agreement. Maintain the smoke alarm in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

9 Volt Battery Safety

- 9-volt batteries can be used to power smoke alarms, household items and toys. They can be found in most home, but these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.
- 9-Volt batteries can be dangerous. The positive and negative post are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.
- It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and key near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.
- Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

Storing 9-Volt Batteries

- Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- Store batteries standing up. 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer.
- Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

Disposal

- 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or piece of metal.
- 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.
- Some states do not allow any type of battery to be disposed of with trash. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of batteries.



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms> and <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/9voltbatterysafety.pdf>

MARCH WEEK 2

APARTMENT AND MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS



People living in an apartment, condominium, duplex or multifamily dwelling need to think ahead and be prepared in the event of a fire. It is important to know the fire safety features in your building and work together with neighbors to help keep the building as fire-safe as possible.

General Tips

- For the best protection, select a fully sprinklered building. If your building is not sprinklered, ask the landlord or management to consider installing a sprinkler system.
- Meet with your landlord or building manager to learn about the fire safety features in your building (fire alarms, sprinklers, voice communication procedures, evacuation plans and how to respond to an alarm).
- Know the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.
- Make sure all exit and stairwell doors are clearly marked, not locked or blocked by security bars and clear of all clutter. Report all hazards, such as piled trash, blocked exits, or missing exit lights, to your building manager.
- If there is a fire, pull the fire alarm on your way out to notify the fire department and your neighbors.
- If the fire alarm sounds, feel the door before opening and close all doors behind you as you leave. If it is hot, use another way out. If it is cool, leave by the nearest way out.
- If an announcement is made throughout the building, listen carefully and follow directions.
- Use the stairs to get out – never use the elevator unless you are directed to by the fire department.



Fire Alarm System

- The fire alarm system has many parts that work together. Some of the parts are out of sight. In a fire, smoke detectors sense smoke and activate the fire alarm. Manual fire alarm boxes allow people to sound the alarm. When the fire alarm system activates it will warn residents of danger.
- Everyone in the building should know where to find the manual fire alarm boxes (alarm boxes on the wall with a pull bar). Most are found within five feet of an exit door.
- If there is a fire, pull the manual fire alarm box handle on your way out of the building.
- When the system senses smoke or fire, a loud horn or tone will sound. Everyone must know what this sound means and how to react.
- Leave the building right away if you hear the sound of a fire alarm. Stay outside at your meeting place until you are told the building is safe.

- Treat every fire alarm as an emergency. When the alarms sounds, get outside.
- Only use a manual fire alarm box if there is smoke or fire. Frequent false alarms are a problem. People might ignore the sound if they hear too many false alarms. False alarms also put firefighters at risk.

Escape 101

- GO to your outside meeting place and stay there. Call the fire department. If someone is trapped in the building, notify the fire department.
- If you can't get out of your apartment because of fire, smoke or a disability,
- STUFF wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out.
- CALL the fire department and tell them where you are.
- OPEN a window slightly and wave a bright cloth to signal your location. Be prepared to close the window if it makes the smoke condition worse.
- Fire department evacuation of a high-rise building can take a long time. Communicate with the fire department to monitor evacuation status.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/apartments> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>



MARCH WEEK 3

MEDICAL OXYGEN AND FIRE

Portable medical oxygen in the home has grown over the past decade. Medical oxygen adds a higher percentage of oxygen to the air a patient uses to breath. Fire needs oxygen to burn. If a fire should start in an oxygen-enriched area, the material burning will burn more quickly. Homes where medical oxygen is used need specific fire safety rules to keep people safe from fire and burns.

- Oxygen saturates fabric covered furniture, clothing, hair and bedding, making it easier for a fire to start and spread.
- Smoking materials is the leading heat source resulting in medical oxygen related fires, injuries and deaths.
- There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. A patient on oxygen should not smoke
- Candles, matches, wood stoves and even sparking toys, can be ignition sources and should not be used in the home.
- Keep oxygen cylinders at least five feet from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices.
- Body oil, hand lotion and items containing oil and grease can easily ignite. Keep oil and grease away where oxygen is in use.
- Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near the oxygen.
- Post “No Smoking” and “No Open Flames” signs inside and outside the home to remind residents and guests not to smoke.

**Don't
Let Your
World
Go Up In
Smoke.
Home fires
are preventable.**



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/medical-oxygen> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoking.html>

MARCH WEEK 4

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning. Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. This is a great way to get children involved in fire safety in a non-threatening way.

Planning

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection. Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound and understands the warning of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
- Teach your children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them. Make sure they can open windows, remove screens, and unlock doors.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.
- Practice your home fire drill with overnight guests.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.
- If a room has a window air conditioner, make sure there is still a second way out of the room.
- Windows with security bars, grills, and window guards should have easy-to-use quick-release devices from inside the home if allowed in your community and approved by code as a secondary means of escape.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.



- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street both day and night.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.

Practicing the Home Fire Drill

- Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Go to your outside meeting place.
- Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.

If There Is A Fire

- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place. Call 9-1-1.
- If there is smoke blocking your door or first way out, use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- If you can't get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around doors with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- If you can't get to someone needing assistance, leave the home and call 9-1-1. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located.
- If pets are trapped inside your home, tell firefighters right away. Never re-enter a burning building.

Close the Door!

- A door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and lifesaving equipment.
 - The simple act of closing the door reduces fire growth and spread; limits damage to your home and could possibly save lives.
 - If you have to leave a room that is on fire, closing the door behind you can be the best decision you make.
- While the two most important things to remember in the event of a fire are to get out of the building and call 9-1-1, fire officials point out that simply closing doors behind you on your way out can help stop flames and smoke from spreading to other rooms. It also deprives a fire of oxygen, helping it to slow down and allowing occupants more time to escape.



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach>

April

“Be Firewise Outdoors”

Week 1 – Outdoor Burning
Week 2 – Wildfire - Are You Prepared?
Week 3 – Lightning Safety
Week 4 – Barn and Outdoor Electrical Safety

EVENTS:

Wildfire Safety Awareness Month
National Safe Digging Month
Distracted Driving Awareness Month
National Youth Sports Safety Month



APRIL WEEK 1

OUTDOOR BURNING



Sitting under the stars by a crackling fire or entertaining friends and family in the backyard or around the pool creates wonderful memories that last a lifetime and bring everyone together. But they also bring an increased risk of home fires and burn injuries. With a few safety tips, you can prevent these accidents.

General Tips

- Check with the fire department for any restrictions before starting an open air, recreational, or outdoor cooking fire. Obtain proper permits, if required. You might not be permitted to do outdoor burning in some municipalities and during some seasons.
- Closely supervise all outdoor fires. Make sure the fire is out before leaving.
- Supervise children around any fire outdoors, including campfires, fire pits and outdoor fireplaces.
- Permitted open fires need to be at least 50 feet from anything that can burn.
- Permitted recreational fires need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Avoid burning on windy, dry days. When conditions are windy or dry, it is easy for open burning to spread out of control.
- Where outdoor burning is allowed, never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- When burning, have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire.

Campfires

- Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Watch children while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire.
- Attend to the campfire at all times. A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a damaging fire.
- Keep a campfire small which is easier to control.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- If roasting marshmallows, help young children. Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can cause burns.



Recreational Heating and Lighting

- Fire pots, personal fireplaces, and patio torches are considered open flames and use gel fuel. Gel fuel is highly flammable. Extreme caution should be taken when using or adding fuel.
- Use chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, and fire pits outdoors only and at least 10 feet away from the home or anything that can burn.
- Never leave a lit pot or personal fireplace, or torch unattended.
- Keep lit fire pots, personal fireplaces, and torches at least one foot from anything that can burn.
- Place the fire pot or personal fireplace on a sturdy surface.
- Make sure patio torches are secure and not in the path of people or pets.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet away from fire pots, personal fireplaces, and torches.
- Be careful reaching over the devices—clothing or hair could catch fire.
- Use only gel fuel to refuel.
- Citronella fuel is intended for outdoor use only.
- Allow the device to cool for 30 to 45 minutes before refueling. Pouring gel fuel in a device that is not completely cool may result in a fire or injury.
- If gel fuel is spilled on clothing, remove the clothing and launder immediately.
- Store the gel fuel in its tightly sealed container away from heat sources and out of reach of children and pets.
- Stop, drop, and roll may not put out clothing that catches fire from splattered or spilled gel fuel. A dry chemical portable fire extinguisher can be used to extinguish the fire.



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/wildfire-and-seasonal-fires/outdoor-entertaining> and <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/campingfiresafety.pdf>

APRIL WEEK 2

WILDFIRE – ARE YOU PREPARED?

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. Nearly 45 million homes abut or intermingle with wildlands and more than 72,000 U.S. communities are now at risk. But by working together residents can make their own property - and their neighborhood - much safer from wildfire.

Plan and Practice Wildfire Safety

- Conduct outdoor burning safely and legally, being sure to secure the appropriate permits.
- Make sure that fire response vehicles can reach your home. Clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your name and address. Ensure adequate accessibility by large fire vehicles to your property.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety. Instill in them that fire is a tool for adults, not a toy. Keep matches and lighters out of their reach.
- Post fire emergency telephone numbers.
- Plan several escape routes away from your home – by car and by foot.
- Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Consider how you could help neighbors – such as elderly or disabled persons – who have special needs. Make plans to take care of children who might be on their own if parents can't get home.



Protect Your Home

- Create a 30-100 foot safety zone around your home.
- Rake and remove leaves, dead limbs, twigs and rubbish from around and under structures in this zone and clear all flammable vegetation.



- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters, and inspect chimneys.
- Remove vines from walls of the home.
- Mow grass regularly.
- Store gasoline, oily rags and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of the buildings.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet. Use only wood-burning devices evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory.
- Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool or hydrant.



Escape Safely

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Wear protective clothing: sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Lock your home when you go.
- Tell someone when you leave and where you are going.
- Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/wildfire-and-seasonal-fires/wildland-fires> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach>



APRIL WEEK 3

LIGHTNING SAFETY

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when storms strike!

Indoor Safety During a Lightning Storm

- Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid washing your hands, showering, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.
- Stay away from windows and doors. Stay off porches.



Outdoor Safety During a Lightning Storm

- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning.
- Seek shelter immediately in a building or a hard-topped vehicle.
- Do not go under trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- There is no safe place outside. Places with only a roof on sports fields, golf courses, and picnic areas are not safe during a lightning storm. Small sheds should not be used.
- If you are in or on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.
- If you can't get to shelter and you feel your hair stand on end, indicating that lightning is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and put your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.
- If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 and get medical care immediately. Victims of lightning strikes carry no electrical charge, so attend to them immediately. Administer CPR if you know how and it is needed.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/wildfire-and-seasonal-fires/lightning>

APRIL WEEK 4

BARN AND OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Mrs. O'Leary's Cow may have gotten a bad rap but the folktale reminds us fire safety is an important part of farm life. People, animals, and property are in danger when fire breaks out on the farm. Inspect your barn and outbuildings for fire hazards to reduce the risk of tragic loss.

Barn Safety Checklist

- Heat lamps and space heaters are kept a safe distance from anything that can burn.
- Heaters are on a sturdy surface and cannot fall over.
- Electrical equipment is labeled for agricultural or commercial use.
- All wiring is free from damage.
- Extension cords are not used in the barn.
- Light bulbs have covers to protect them from dust, moisture, and breakage.
- Damage is identified quickly and repairs are completed with safety in mind.
- Dust and cobwebs around electrical outlets and lights are removed.
- Oily rags are stored in a closed, metal container away from heat.
- Feed, hay, straw, and flammable liquids are stored away from the main barn.
- The barn is a smoke-free zone.
- Exits are clearly marked and pathways are clear.
- Fire drills are held frequently with everyone who uses the barn.
- Workers are trained to use fire extinguishers.
- Everyone in the barn knows personal safety is the first priority if a fire breaks out.
- Hazard checks take place on a set schedule.
- Install and maintain ABC-type fire extinguishers near every exit and within 50 feet from any point in the barn.
- Talk with your local fire department to address safety concerns unique to your farm.



Outdoor Electricity Safety

- Electrical work should be done by a qualified electrician.
- Keep ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders outdoors.
- Never touch a power line. You could be injured or electrocuted. Assume that all power lines are live. Stay at a safe distance.
- Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. You could be injured or electrocuted.
- Report downed power lines to authorities.
- Some power lines are underground. Call your local authority to have lines identified and marked before digging. You can also call the national 8-1-1 "Call before you dig" number.

Information provided by NFPA www.nfpa.org/farms and <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/outdoorelectricalsafety.pdf>

May

“Gearing Up for Summer Safety”

Week 1 – Arson Awareness

Week 2 – Bicycle Safety

Week 3 – Hotel/Motel Safety

Week 4 – Water and Boating Safety

EVENTS:

National Building Safety Month
National Electrical Safety Month
Motorcycle Safety Month
National Bike Month
National Hurricane Preparedness Week
National Police Week
National EMS Week
National Arson Awareness Week (First week in May)
Statewide Burn Ban begins May 1st



MAY WEEK 1

ARSON AWARENESS

By the Numbers: Intentionally Set Fires

- 300,000 fires are intentionally set each year, representing 13% of all fires reported to fire departments.
- Intentionally set fires result in 400-500 deaths, 6,000 - 8,000 injuries, and \$1 billion in direct property loss annually.
- The incidence of intentionally set fires peaks in the spring (March and April) and again mid-summer (July).
- Matches (30%) and lighters (15%) are the leading heat sources of intentionally set fires.
- 57% of intentionally set fires occur in outside areas.
- 22% of intentionally set fires occur in structures.
- Light vegetation including grass (26%) and rubbish, trash, waste (11%) are the items most often first ignited in intentionally set fires.

Community Problem

- Fire can spread to neighboring properties
- Burned out homes can be a community eyesore.
- If sit unrepaired, burned out homes can decrease property values and increasing insurance premiums.
- A damaged, vacant house can be a magnet for additional intentional fires or vandalism.



What You Can Do

- Start with your own home and look over the area outside your home and consider what could be easily ignited and grow into a larger fire.
- Clean the area including dead branches and overgrown plants and vegetation.
- Pay particular attention to any large items on your property, such as an abandoned car. A large object can mean a large fire that can easily spread to a neighboring building.
- Lock, shutter, and board up vacant buildings and homes to make it harder for intruders to enter. This is especially important for a house or apartment building that has been vacant for a long time, because the longer a building sits vacant, the better the chance of it being discovered by would-be firesetters.
- Clean up vacant homes just as you would your own home.
- Watch for kids around the property, half the people arrested for arson are under the age of 18.
- Get to know the kids and families in your neighborhood.
- Report suspicious activity to your local police department and seek professional help if a serious situation is developing.
- Work with your community and participate in community events that focus on safety.
- Keep your eye on area businesses. Arsonists may target other buildings, such as stores, churches, theaters and other recreational sites, and schools
- Organize or participate in a neighborhood watch program.
- Plan ahead to survive a fire in your home. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home including the basement. Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Prepare and practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place and call 9-1-1.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/arson-and-intentional-fires> and USFA https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/arson_awareness.html



MAY WEEK 2

BICYCLE SAFETY

There are so many great reasons to ride your bike: It offers fun, freedom and exercise, and it's good for the environment. But, more children ages 5 to 14 are seen in emergency rooms for injuries related to biking than any other sport. Helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by 88 percent – yet only 45 percent of children 14 and under usually wear a bike helmet. Here are a few tips so that you will be as safe as possible while you're riding.

Georgia Bicycle Helmet Law

- In 1993, Georgia passed a helmet law requiring all children under 16 to wear an approved bicycle helmet while riding a bike on public roads, sidewalks, and bike paths.
- A person is deemed to wear a bicycle helmet only if a bicycle helmet is of good fit and fastened securely.
- Also, children under 1 riding as passengers on bikes must be carried in an infant sling or bike trailer.

Wear a Helmet

- “Use your head, wear a helmet.” It is the single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes.

Find the Right Helmet Fit

- Make sure you are using the right size helmet and wearing it every time when riding, skating or scooting. The helmet should meet the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's standards.
- Make sure the helmet fits and is put on correctly. A helmet should sit on top of the head in a level position, and should not rock forward, backward or side to side. The helmet straps must always be buckled, but not too tightly.
 - EYES check: Position the helmet on your head. Look up and you should see the bottom rim of the helmet. The rim should be one to two finger-widths above the eyebrows.
 - EARS check: Make sure the straps of the helmet form a “V” under your ears when buckled. The strap should be snug but comfortable.
 - MOUTH check: Open your mouth as wide as you can. Do you feel the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten those straps and make sure the buckle is flat against your skin.



Use Appropriate Helmets for Different Activities

- Wear a helmet for all wheeled sports activities.
- A properly-fitted bike helmet is just as effective when riding a scooter, roller skating or in-line skating.
- When skateboarding and long boarding, make sure a skateboarding helmet is worn.
- Proper Equipment and Maintenance Are Important.
- Ensure proper bike fit when shopping for a bike. Select one that is the right size for the child, not one he

or she will grow into.

- When sitting on the seat of the bicycle, your feet should be able to touch the ground.
- Before the ride, make sure the reflectors are secure, brakes work properly, gears shift smoothly, and tires are tightly secured and properly inflated.
- Long or loose clothing can get caught in bike chains or wheel spokes. Dress appropriately to ensure a safe ride.

Keep an Eye Out

- Actively supervise children until you're comfortable that they are responsible to ride on their own.
- Every child is different, but developmentally, it can be hard for kids to judge speed and distance of cars until age 10, so limit riding to sidewalks (although be careful for vehicles in driveways), parks or bike paths until age 10.
- No matter where you ride, teach your child to stay alert and watch for cars and trucks.
- Children should be able to demonstrate riding competence and knowledge of the rules of the road before cycling with traffic.

Rules of the Road

- You'd be surprised how much kids learn from watching you, so it's extra important for parents to model proper behavior. Wear a helmet, even if you didn't when you were a kid.
- Make eye contact with drivers. Bikers should make sure drivers are paying attention and are going to stop before they cross the street.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, not against it. Stay as far to the right as possible. Use appropriate hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stoplights.
- Stop and look left, right and left again before entering a street or crossing an intersection. Look back and yield to traffic coming from behind before turning left.

Be Bright, Use Lights

- When riding at dusk, dawn or in the evening, be bright and use lights – and make sure your bike has reflectors as well. It's also smart to wear clothes and accessories that have retro-reflective materials to improve biker visibility to motorists.
- Most states require a front light but allow the use of a rear reflector. Headlights aren't so much for bicyclists to see where they are going but for others to see them. Riding without a headlight means drivers won't see you, and surprising motorists is never a good idea.



Hoverboards

Hoverboard — part toy, part transportation. These self-balancing scooters have quickly become the latest fad. However, many hoverboards have been linked to fires. NFPA urges you to be fire safe when using these devices.

- If you purchase a hoverboard, choose a device with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read and follow all manufacturer directions. If you do not understand the directions, ask for help.
- An adult should be responsible for charging the hoverboard.
- Do not leave a charging hoverboard unattended.
- Never leave the hoverboard plugged in overnight.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the hoverboard.
- Stop using your hoverboard if it overheats.
- Extreme hot or cold temperature can hurt the battery.
- Signs of a Problem
 - Excessive heat
 - Odor
 - Sparking
 - Smoke
 - If you notice any of these signs, stop using the device right away. Call 9-1-1. If safe to do so, move the hoverboard outside away from anything that can burn.

Information provided by Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety <http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/campaigns/bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety/laws-pertaining-to-bicycles-and-bicycling/>, Safe Kids Worldwide <https://www.safekids.org/bike>, and NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/hoverboard>



MAY WEEK 3

HOTEL/MOTEL SAFETY



Vacations and business travel make hotels and motels our home away from home. It is just as important to be prepared and know what you would do in a hotel/motel emergency as it is in your own home especially since on average, one of every 13 hotels/ motels reported a structure fire each year.

- Choose a hotel that is protected by both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers.
- When you check in, ask the desk clerk what the fire alarm sounds like. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, ask for a room equipped with a smoke alarm and accessories that will awaken you, or a portable smoke alarm made specifically for people who are deaf or hard of hearing to place in your room. You may want to consider bringing one with you.
- Read the escape plan posted in your room.
- Count the number of doors between your room and the nearest two fire exits. If they are not alarmed, open the exit doors to be sure they are unlocked.
- Keep your room key by your bed and take it with you if there's a fire. If you cannot escape, you may have to return to your room.

If you hear an alarm,

- Leave the room, taking your key and closing all doors behind you.
- Use the stairs – never use elevators during a fire.
- If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit.
- If all escape routes are blocked, return to your room.
 - Shut off fans and air conditioners.
 - Stuff wet towels or bedding in the cracks around the doors and vents.
 - Call the fire department to let them know your location.
 - Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or light-colored cloth.
 - Bring a flashlight; keep it near your bed.



Hotel and Motel Fire Safety List

The Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 encourages fire safety in places that offer lodging to the public. Use the Hotel-Motel National Master List to find hotels and motels that:

- Have at least one single-station and hard-wired smoke alarm in each guest room.
- Have an automatic fire sprinkler system in each guest room for buildings that are four or more stories tall.
- Are approved for U.S. federal government employees while on official travel.
- To search the list, go to <http://apps.usma.fema.gov/hotel>
- Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/hotels-and-motels> and USFA <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/hotel/>

MAY WEEK 4

WATER AND BOATING SAFETY



Whether it's a trip to the beach or a dip in the community or backyard pool, you can ensure that swimming is as safe as it is fun by following a few basic safety tips especially since drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among children ages 1-4.

There Is No Substitute for Active Supervision

- Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water, giving them your undivided attention.
- Whenever infants or toddlers are in or around water, an adult should be within arm's reach to provide active supervision. We know it's hard to get everything done without a little multitasking, but this is the time to avoid distractions of any kind. If children are near water, then they should be the only thing on your mind. Small children can drown in as little as one inch of water.
- When there are several adults present and children are swimming, use the Water Watcher strategy, which designates an adult as the Water Watcher for a certain amount of time (such as 15-minute periods) to prevent lapses in supervision.



Educate Your Kids About Swimming Safely

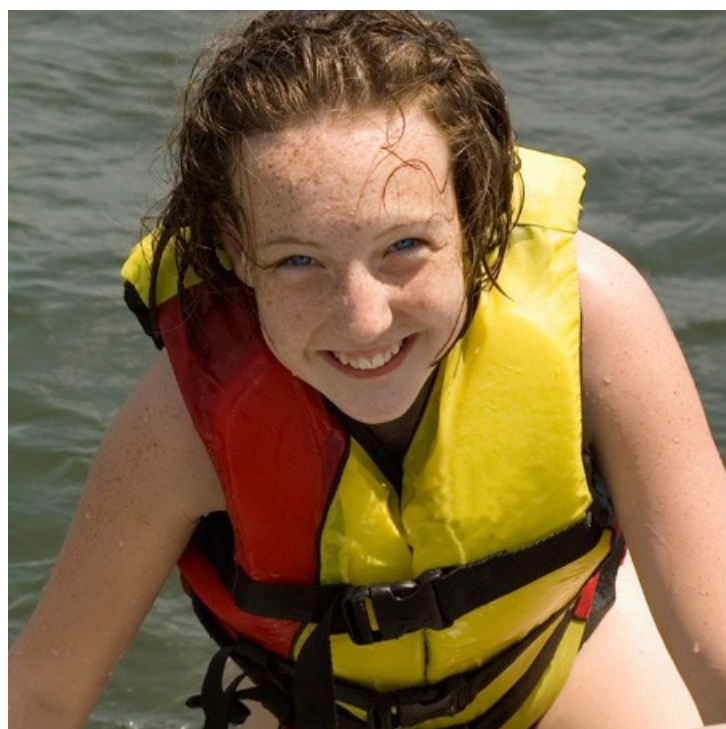
- Every child is different, so enroll children in swimming lessons when you feel they are ready. Teach children how to tread water, float and stay by the shore.
- Make sure kids swim only in areas designated for swimming. Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool. They need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow, and changing weather.



- Whether you're swimming in a backyard pool or in a lake, teach children to swim with a partner, every time. From the start, teach children to never go near or in water without an adult present.
- Make sure kids swim only in areas designated for swimming.
- Teach children not to dive into oceans, lakes or rivers, because you never know how deep the water is or what might be hidden under the surface.
- Do not dive in shallow pools, always enter feet first.

Life Jackets

- Remember that swimming aids such as water wings or noodles are fun toys for kids, but they should never be used in place of a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD). Always have your children wear a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard while on boats, around open bodies of water or when participating in water sports.
- Make sure the life jacket fits snugly. Have kids make a "touchdown" signal by raising both arms straight up; if the life jacket hits a child's chin or ears, it may be too big or the straps may be too loose.
- According to the U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Boating Safety, babies should not travel on a boat — including rowboats, kayaks, motorboats, and sailboats — until they are at the appropriate weight to wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD). Here's some more information on [how to choose the right life jacket](#).
- Hold on to your baby while also wearing your own life jacket. Car seats are not a good option. If the boat were to capsize, the seat would sink instantly.



Boating Safety

- Explain some basic boat rules and have everyone follow them. Children need to understand and follow rules such as keeping their hands and feet inside the boat at all times and not running on a boat.
- Infants and young kids are at a higher risk for hypothermia, so if you are taking a baby on a boat, just take a few extra precautions to keep your baby warm. If your children seem cold or are shivering, wrap them tightly in a dry blanket or towel.
- Enroll older kids in a boating safety course. Better yet, enroll with them.
- Get a vessel safety check every year for free from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. For more information go to www.uscgboating.org and click "get a free safety check."

- A large portion of boating accidents that occur each year involve alcohol consumption by both boat operators and passengers. To protect your safety and loved ones around you, it is strongly recommended not to drink alcoholic beverages while boating.
- Make sure there's a working carbon monoxide alarm on any motorboat to alert your family to any buildup of toxic fumes from the engine.
- Let your teen operate a boat only in a supervised setting and in adherence to the laws in your area. Laws regarding the operation of a boat or watercraft vary from community to community.
- Make sure an adult is present whenever a teen is operating a personal watercraft.

Take Extra Steps Around Pools

- A swimming pool is a ton of fun for you and your kids. Make sure backyard pools have four-sided fencing that's at least 4 feet high and a self-closing, self-latching gate to prevent a child from wandering into the pool area unsupervised.
- When using inflatable or portable pools, remember to empty them immediately after use. Store them upside down and out of children's reach.
- Install a door alarm, a window alarm or both to alert you if a child wanders into the pool area unsupervised.

Check the Drains in Your Pool and Spa

- Educate your children about the dangers of drain entanglement and entrapment and teach them to never play or swim near drains or suction outlets.
- Pools that pose the greatest risk of entrapment are children's public wading pools, in-ground hot tubs, or any other pools that have flat drain grates or a single main drain system.
- For new pools or hot tubs, install multiple drains in all pools, spas, whirlpools and hot tubs. This minimizes the suction of any one drain, reducing risk of death or injury. If you do have drains, protective measures include anti-entrapment drain covers and a safety vacuum release system to automatically release suction and shut down the pump should entrapment occur.
- Regularly check to make sure drain covers are secure and have no cracks, and replace flat drain covers with dome-shaped ones. If a pool or hot tub has a broken, loose or missing drain cover, don't use it.
- If you do have drains, protective measures include anti-entrapment drain covers and a safety vacuum release system to automatically release suction and shut down the pump should entrapment occur. Go to www.PoolSafety.gov for a list of manufacturers of certified covers.
- Check to make sure your pool or hot tub's drains are compliant with the Pool and Spa Safety Act

Learn CPR

- We know you have a million things to do, but learning CPR should be on the top of the list. It will give you tremendous peace of mind – and the more peace of mind you have as a parent, the better. Local hospitals, fire departments and recreation departments offer CPR training.
- Have your children learn CPR. It's a skill that will serve them for a lifetime.

Information provided by Safe Kids Worldwide <https://www.safekids.org/poolsafety> and <https://www.safekids.org/tip/boating-safety-tips>

June

“Fire Safety and the Great Outdoors”

Week 1 – Outdoor Grilling Safety

Week 2 – Electrical Safety Around Water

Week 3 – Camping Safety

Week 4 – Safety With Fireworks

EVENTS:

Pet Preparedness Month

National CPR/AED Awareness Month

National Safety Month



JUNE WEEK 1

GRILLING SAFETY



When the warmer weather hits, there's nothing better than the smell of food on the grill. Three out of five households own a gas grill, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there's an increased risk of home fires.

Each year an average of 8,900 home fires are caused by grilling, and close to half of all injuries involving grills are due to thermal burns. While nearly half of the people who grill do it year-round, July is the peak month for grill fires followed by May, June and August.

Grilling by the numbers

- In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills
- A failure to clean the grill was the leading factor contributing to the fire in one –fifth of all grill structure fires (19%). In 17%, something that could catch fire was too close to the grill
- Leaks or breaks were the factor in 11% of grill structure fires and 23% of outside and unclassified grill fires
- Gas grills contribute to a higher number of home fires overall than their charcoal counterparts

Barbecue Grills

- Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet barbecue grills must only be used outdoors. Indoor use can kill occupants by causing fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Place the grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony, including any porch or balcony on an upper level of the building.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3 foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.



- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in the tray(s) below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Never leave a barbeque grill unattended.

Charcoal Grills

- Use one of the following methods to start charcoal for cooking:
 - If you use a charcoal chimney to start charcoal for cooking, use a long match to avoid burning your fingers when lighting the paper.
 - If you use an electrical charcoal starter, be sure to use a grounded extension cord.
 - If you choose to use lighter fluid, use only fluid intended for charcoal grills.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid to coals or kindling that has already been ignited.
- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid except charcoal starter or lighter fluid to start a charcoal fire.
- Store the charcoal starter fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Dispose of charcoal coals only after they are cool. Empty the coals into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid that is used only to collect coals. Place the container outside away from anything that can burn. Never empty coals directly into a trash can.



Propane Grills

- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year and after each time the gas tank is reconnected. A soap-and-water solution (1/3 liquid dish soap and 2/3 water) applied to the hose and connection will quickly reveal escaping propane by causing bubbles to form. If you determine by smell or by the soap bubble test that your gas tank hose and connection has a gas leak, do the following:
 - Turn off the gas tank and grill.
 - If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
 - If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- Use only equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Always store propane gas tanks outside of buildings or garages. Vapors leaked indoors can be easily ignited by pilot lights or electrical equipment, causing an explosion. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the tank or cylinder and leave it outside.
- Light a propane grill only with the cover open. If the flame on the propane grill goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/grilling> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach>

JUNE WEEK 2

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AROUND WATER

For many of us, water activities equal fun. But it's important to be aware of electrical hazards while enjoying the water. Electric shock drowning (ESD) can occur when faulty wiring sends an electrical current into the water. The current then passes through the body, causing paralysis, and results in drowning. As little as 10 milliamps (1/50th the current used by a 60 watt light bulb) can cause paralysis/drowning and sixty milliamps in the body can cause heart failure. Potential electrical hazards exist in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, onboard boats and in the waters surrounding boats, marinas and launch ramps.

Tips for swimmers

- Never swim near a marina, dock or boatyard, or near a boat while it's running.
- Obey all "no swimming signs" on docks.



Tips for boat owners

- Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat. Docks or boats can leak electricity into the water causing water electrification.
- Each year, and after a major storm, have the boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the required codes of your area, including the [American Boat & Yacht Council](#) (ABYC). Check with the marina owner who can also tell you if the marina's electrical system has recently been inspected to meet the required codes of your area, including the [National Electrical Code \(NEC\)](#).
- Know where your main breaker(s) are located on both the boat and the shore power source so you can respond quickly in case of an emergency.
- Have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) installed on your boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that are "UL-Marine Listed" when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.



Tips for swimmers around pools, hot tubs, and spas

- Look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker or work intermittently.
- If tingling occurs, immediately stop swimming in your current direction. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling, Exit the water as quickly as possible and avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.
- Do not swim before, during or after thunderstorms.

Tips for swimming pool owners

- Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and—where necessary—replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool, spa or hot tub electrically safe. Have him/her show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.
- Make sure that any overhead lines maintain the proper distance over a pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.
- If you are putting in a new pool, hot tub or spa be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations.
- Electrical appliances, equipment and cords should be kept at least 6 feet away from the water. When possible, use battery-operated instead of cord-connected appliances and equipment, such as televisions, radios, and stereos.

Signs of Electric Shock

- Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation.
- They may experience muscle cramps.
- They may not be able to move. They may feel as if something is holding them in place.

If you feel a tingle while swimming

- STOP
- Turn around
- Go back to where there was no tingle.
- Swim away and warn others
- Get out and turn off power any way you can.

If you witness an Electric Shock Drowning

- Send someone to call 9-1-1
- Turn power off
- Throw a life ring
- Try to move the person away with a nonconductive pole or object. Do not pull the person towards the dock.
- DO NOT JUMP IN TO HELP!
- Call 9-1-1

Information provided by Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association www.electricshockdrowning.org and NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/electrical-safety-around-water>

JUNE WEEK 3

CAMPING SAFETY

Campfires

- Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Watch children while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire.
- Attend to the campfire at all times. A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a damaging fire.
- Before you light the fire, check the wind direction.
- Keep a campfire small which is easier to control.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- If roasting marshmallows, help young children. Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can cause burns.
- Place campfires and fire pits at least 10 feet away from anything that can burn.



Extinguishing Your Campfire

- Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible.
- Pour lots of water on the fire; drown all embers, not just the red ones.
- Pour until hissing sound stops.
- Stir the campfire ashes and embers with a shovel.
- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers.
- Stir and make sure everything is wet and they are cold to the touch.
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough dirt or sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool. Remember: do NOT bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire. REMEMBER: If it is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!

Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

- Carbon monoxide (CO), often call the “silent killer,” is an invisible, odorless gas created when fuels (such as kerosene, gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Carbon monoxide can result from a number of camping equipment, including barbeque grills, portable generators or other fuel-powered devices.
- CO poisoning can result from malfunctioning or improperly vented furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left running in garages.
- 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.



- Headache, nausea, and drowsiness are symptoms of CO poisoning. Exposure to CO can be fatal.

Installation of CO Alarms

- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your recreational vehicles provide early warning of CO.



Portable Generators

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated area..
- If you are using a portable generator, make sure you have battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup in the camper.

If Your Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

- Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors.
- Call 9-1-1 from the fresh air location. Remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/wildfire-and-seasonal-fires/outdoor-entertaining>, <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/campingfiresafety.pdf>, and <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/fire-and-life-safety-equipment/carbon-monoxide>

JUNE WEEK 4

FIREWORKS SAFETY

Each July 4th, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks - devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death. To avoid the risk of injury and property damage associated with consumer fireworks, join other community members in attending a public show put on by trained and licensed professionals.

Fireworks by the numbers

- Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 16,900 outside and other fires. These fires caused an average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and an average of \$43 million in direct property damage.
- In 2015, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 11,900 people for fireworks related injuries; 51% of those injuries were to the extremities and 41% were to the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for one-quarter (26%) of the estimated 2015 injuries.

Think Safety

If consumer fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Little arms are too short to hold sparklers, which can heat up to 1,200 degrees. How about this? Let your young children use glow sticks instead. They can be just as fun but they don't burn at a temperature hot enough to melt glass.

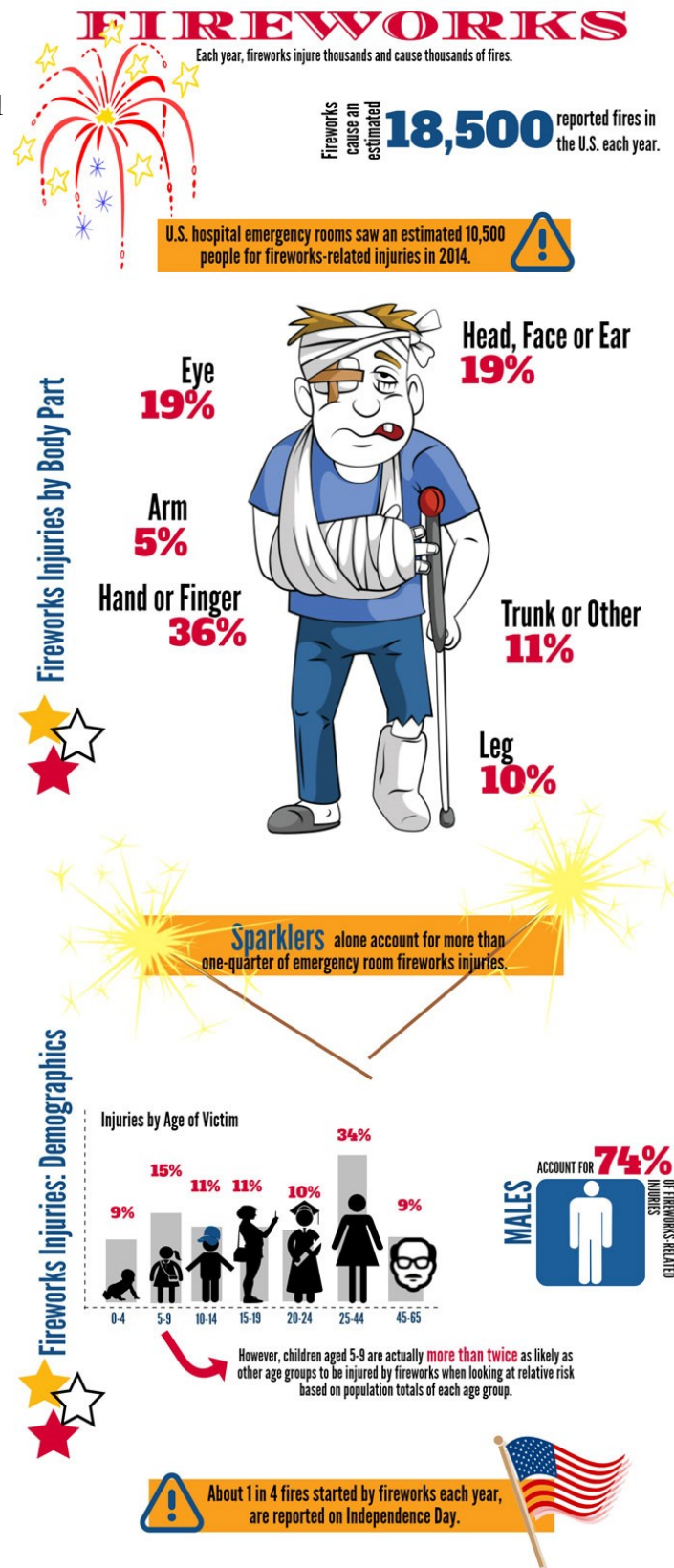


- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks.
- Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves and flammable substances.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

Be Prepared for an Accident or Injury

- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
- Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital or call 9-1-1. If an eye injury occurs, don't allow victim to touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/fireworks> and Safe Kids Worldwide <https://www.safekids.org/tip/fireworks-safety-tips>



Be safe. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts.

For more information, please visit: www.nfpa.org/fireworks



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

*Information sourced from CPSC, and NFPA's "Fireworks Report"

July

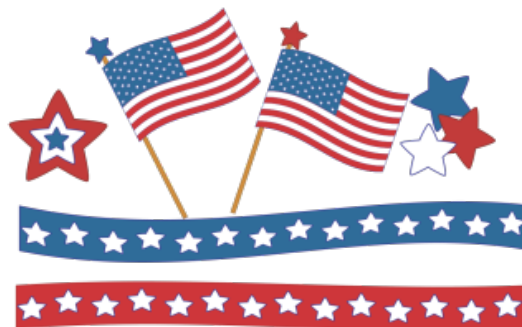
“Fire Safety Everyday”

Week 1 – Safety in Places of Public Assembly
Week 2 – Matches and Lighters
Week 3 – Stop, Drop, and Roll
Week 4 – Fall and Fire Safety for Older Adults

EVENTS:

National Fireworks Safety Month

Parks and Recreation Month



JULY WEEK 1

SAFETY IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY



Every day, millions of people wake up, go to work or school, and take part in social events. But every so often the unexpected happens: an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism or some other disaster. Routines change drastically, and people are suddenly aware of how fragile their lives and routines can be. Each disaster can have lasting effects — people may be seriously injured or killed, and devastating and costly property damage can occur. People entering any public assembly building (including restaurants, movie theaters, nightclubs, and auditoriums) need to be prepared in case of an emergency.

Before You Enter

- Take a Good Look - Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable? Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit? Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?
- Have a Communication Plan - Identify a relative or friend to contact in case of emergency and you are separated from family or friends.
- Plan a Meeting Place - Pick a meeting place outside to meet family or friends with whom you are attending the function. If there is an emergency, be sure to meet them there.



When You Enter

- Locate Exits Immediately- When you enter a building you should look for all available exits. Some exits may be in front and some in back of you. Be prepared to use your closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit.
- Check for Clear Exit Paths - Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths are blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if it is not immediately addressed. Call the local fire marshal to register a complaint
- Do You Feel Safe? - Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.



JULY WEEK 2

MATCHES & LIGHTERS

Young firesetters cause hundreds of deaths and injuries each year. Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing with matches and lighters, and are most likely to die in them.

Children and fire are a deadly combination. Some children play with fire out of curiosity, not realizing its danger. Troubled children may set a fire as a way of acting out their anger, disappointment or frustration. If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unusually fascinated with fire, get help. Your local fire department, school, or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts who know how to teach children about fire in an appropriate way.

*If your fire department does not have a trained Juvenile Firesetting Intervention Specialist to assist, please contact the State Fire Marshal's Office for resources.

- Children experience fire interest. They may ask questions such as how hot is fire or show an interest in fire through playing with fire trucks or cooking on a play stove. This is healthy, and it is time to begin educating about fire.
- Firestarting happens when children begin to experiment with fire using matches and lighters. Many fires happen when young children are left alone, even for a short period of time, and have access to matches and lighters. Parents must have clear rules and consequences about fire misuse.
- Grown-ups can help keep fire out of the hands of children.
- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet or container.
- Never leave matches or lighters in a bedroom or any place where children may go without supervision.
- Teach young children and school-age children to tell a grown-up if they see matches or lighters. Children need to understand that fire is difficult to control, it is fast and can hurt as soon as it touches you.
- A child with an interest in fire can lead to fire starting and result in repeated firesetting behavior.
- It is important for grown-ups to discourage unsupervised fire starts.
- Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children; they may imitate you.
 - Lighters that look like toys can confuse children and cause fires, injuries, and death. Do not buy or use them.
- Never assign a young child any tasks that involve the use of a lighter or matches (lighting candles, bringing a lighter to an adult to light a cigarette or the fireplace, etc.)
- If your child expresses curiosity about fire or has been playing with fire, calmly but firmly explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Use only lighters designed with child-resistant features. Remember, child-resistant does not mean child-proof.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters/children-and-fire-safety-tips>

JULY WEEK 3

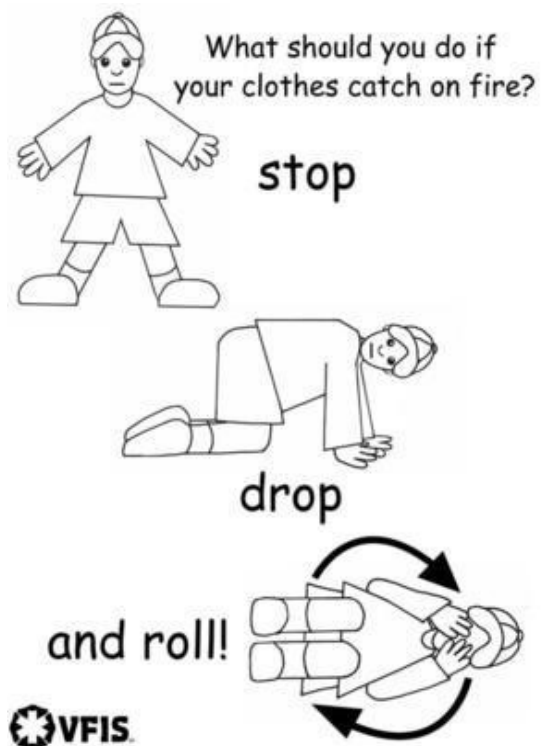
STOP, DROP, AND ROLL

“Stop, drop and roll” has been one of the most recognizable fire safety messages for decades. Many adults remember the concept from being introduced to it as a young child. Unfortunately, it is common for people, especially children, to mistakenly believe that they should utilize stop, drop and roll as a reaction to all fire situations. This is why Stop, Drop, and Roll should not be taught for under second grade together with home fire escape planning, they confuse the messages.

It is important to stress, especially to children, that stop, drop, and roll is appropriate when your clothing or body is on fire. If a fire occurs in a home or a building, however, they need to know that getting out fast and staying out is the priority.

If your clothes catch fire

- **Stop** immediately
- **Drop** to the ground, and **Cover** your face with your hands.
- **Roll** over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
 - If you cannot stop, drop, and roll, keep a blanket or towel nearby to help you or others smother flames. Cover the person with a blanket to smother the fire.
 - If you use a wheelchair, scooter, or other device and are able to get to the floor, lock the device first to stay in place before getting on the floor to roll until the flames are out.
- Immediately remove loose clothing or clothing with elastic bands, belts, and jewelry.
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies. Get medical help right away by calling 9-1-1 or the fire department.



To prevent clothes from catching fire

- Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking or grilling.
- Teach young children to tell a grownup when they find matches or lighters and to never touch matches or lighters.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around fireplaces, candles, grills, and stoves.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education>

JULY WEEK 4

FALL AND FIRE SAFETY FOR OLDER ADULTS

Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is particularly important for older adults. At age 65, people are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires compared to the population at large. And with our numbers growing every year - in the United States and Canada, adults age 65 and older make up about 12 percent of the population - it's essential to take the necessary steps to stay safe.

Remembering When™ is centered around 16 key safety messages – eight fire prevention and eight fall prevention - developed by experts from national and local safety organizations as well as through focus group testing in high-fire-risk states. The program was designed to be implemented by a coalition comprising the local fire department, service clubs, social and religious organizations, retirement communities, and others. Coalition members can decide how to best approach the local senior population: through group presentations, during home visits, and/or as part of a smoke alarm installation and fall intervention program.

Fire Safety

- **If you smoke, smoke outside.**
 - Provide smokers with large, deep, sturdy ashtrays.
 - Wet cigarette butts and ashes before throwing them out or bury them in sand.
 - Never smoke in bed.
 - Never smoke if medical oxygen is used in the home.
- **Give space heaters space.**
 - Keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn –including you.
 - Shut off and unplug heaters when you leave your home or go to bed.
 - Always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet, never into an extension cord or a power strip.
- **Stay in the kitchen when frying, boiling, grilling, or boiling food.**
 - If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the burner and move the pan to a cool burner.
 - Use a timer when cooking. If you are cooking on the stovetop and leave the room, take a timer, an oven mitt, or a wooden spoon as a reminder that you have something cooking.
 - If a pan of food catches fire, slide a lid over it and turn off the burner.
 - Don't cook if you are drowsy from alcohol or medication.
 - Do not cook when taking new medication until you know how it will affect you.
 - Wear tight-fitting, rolled up, or short sleeves when cooking.
 - Use oven mitts to handle hot pans.
 - Use lightweight manageable pans.



- **If your clothes catch fire: stop, drop, and roll.**

- Stop (don't run), drop gently to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth to put out the fire.
- If you cannot drop and roll, keep a blanket or towel nearby to smother flames.
- If you use a wheelchair, scooter, or other device and are able to get to the floor, lock the device first before getting out and then roll until the flames are out.
- If you are a bystander, consider grabbing a rug, blanket, or fire blanket to help extinguish the flames. Use cool water for 3-5 minutes to cool the burn. Get medical help right away.

- **Working smoke alarms save lives.**

- Have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.
- For the best protection, make sure the alarms are interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Have someone test your smoke alarms once a month by pushing the test button. Make sure everyone in your home can hear the smoke alarms.
- Replace all alarms that are 10 year old or older.
- If you are hard of hearing or remove your hearing aids to sleep, consider purchasing a strobe alarm and/or bed shaker.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

- **Plan and practice your escape from fire and smoke.**

- If possible, plan two ways out of every room in your home and two ways out of your home.
- Make sure windows and doors open easily.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

- **Know your local emergency number.**

- Your emergency number may be 9-1-1 or the fire department's phone number.
- Once you have escaped a fire, call the fire department from a neighbor's phone or a cell phone.
- In case of a medical emergency, have other emergency contact numbers (neighbor, family member) near the phone to call for assistance while waiting for first responder to arrive.

- **Plan your escape around your abilities.**

- Have a landline telephone or cell phone and charger near your bed, with the local emergency number posted nearby in case you are trapped by smoke or fire.
- Consider subscribing to a medical alert system, which will provide you with a button you wear around your neck or on your wrist.
- If you have an emergency, just push the button and the service will send emergency responders.
- Have other necessary items near your bed such as medications, glasses, wheelchair, walker, scooter, or cane.
- Keep a flashlight and whistle near your bed to signal for help.



Fall Prevention Safety

- **Exercise regularly.**
 - Exercise regularly to build strength and improve your balance and coordination. Ask your doctor about the best physical exercise for you.
- **Take your time.**
 - Get out of chairs slowly.
 - Sit a moment before you get out of your bed.
 - Stand and get your balance before you walk.
 - Be aware of your surroundings
- **Keep stairs and walking areas clear.**
 - Keep stairs and walking areas free of electrical cords, shoes, clothing, books, magazines, and other treasures.
- **Improve the lighting in and outside your home.**
 - Use nightlights or a flashlight to light the path between your bedroom and the bathroom.
 - Turn on the lights before using the stairs.
 - See an eye specialist once a year—better vision can help prevent falls.
- **Use non-slip mats.**
 - Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors.
 - Have grab bars installed on the wall next to the bathtub, shower, and toilet.
 - Wipe up spilled liquids immediately
- **Be aware of uneven surfaces.**
 - Be aware of uneven surfaces indoors and outdoors.
 - Use only throw rugs that have rubber, non-skid backing.
 - Consider placing non-skid rug pads under rugs.
 - Always smooth out wrinkles and folds in carpeting.
 - Be aware of uneven sidewalks and pavement outdoors.
 - Ask a family member or friend to clear ice and snow from outside stairs and walkways and always use handrails if available.
 - Step carefully.
- **Stairways should be well lit.**
 - Stairways should be well lit from both the top and the bottom.
 - Have easy-to-grip handrails installed along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
- **Wear sturdy, well fitting shoes.**
 - Wear sturdy, well-fitting, low-heeled shoes with non-slip soles. These are safer than high heels, thick-soled athletic shoes, slippers, or stocking feet.



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/remembering-when>

August

“Eliminate Hazards in the Home

Week 1 – Campus Fire Safety
Week 2 – Hoarding
Week 3 – Portable Fire Extinguishers
Week 4 – Fire Safety for People with Disabilities

EVENTS:

Back to School Month



AUGUST WEEK 1

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

Going to college is an exciting time for students and their parents. Living in your new “home away from home” not only gives young adults more freedom to make their own choices, but it also puts upon them an increased level of personal responsibility while at school. When it comes to on- and off-campus housing, it’s important for students and parents to keep fire safety top of mind.

Campus fire safety by the numbers

- In 2010-2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 3,970 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks.
- These fires caused annual averages of one civilian death, 35 civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage.
- Most fires started in the kitchen or cooking area.
- 86% of the reported structure fires involved cooking equipment. The vast majority of fires were specifically reported as contained or confined to cooking equipment.
- Structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks are more common during the evening hours between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., and on weekends.
- From 2000 - 2015, 89 fires that killed 126 people have occurred on a college campus, in Greek housing or in off-campus housing within three miles of the campus. **Of these:
 - 76 off-campus fires caused 107 deaths
 - 7 on-campus building or residence hall fires claimed 9 victims
 - 6 fires in Greek housing took the lives of 10 people



Safety Tips

- Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
- Make sure you can hear the building alarm system when you are in your dorm room.
- If you live in a dormitory, make sure your sleeping room has a smoke alarm, or your dormitory suite has a smoke alarm in each living area as well as the sleeping room. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the dormitory suite should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- If you live in an apartment or house, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the

A graphic titled 'CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY' featuring a blue banner with the text 'CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY' and a yellow floor plan diagram. Red dashed arrows indicate escape routes from various rooms in the floor plan. The graphic is set against a brick wall background.

Know how to escape from your dorm room or off-campus home.

Don't block exits with boxes, bikes or other items.

Take all fire alarms seriously.

Never ignore a fire alarm.

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA | Fire Department

- apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
 - Never remove batteries or disable the alarm.
 - Learn your building's evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
 - If you live off campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.
 - When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
 - Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
 - Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
 - Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbeque grill, fire pit, or chiminea.
 - Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.
 - If you smoke, smoke outside and only where it is permitted, Use sturdy, deep, nontip ashtrays. Don't smoke in bed or when you've been drinking or are drowsy.
 - Burn candles only if the school permits their use. A candle is an open flame and should be placed away from anything that can burn. Never leave a candle unattended. Blow it out when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Alcohol use



- In cases where fire fatalities have occurred on college campuses, alcohol was a factor. There is a strong link between alcohol and fire deaths. Alcohol abuse often impairs judgement and hampers evacuation efforts. Many other factors contribute to the problem of dormitory housing fires including:
 - Improper use of 9-1-1 notification systems delays emergency response.
- Student apathy is prevalent. Many are unaware that fire is a risk or threat in the environment.
- Evacuation efforts are hindered since fire alarms are often ignored.
- Building evacuations are delayed due to lack of preparation and planning.
- Vandalized and improperly maintained smoke alarms and fire alarm systems inhibit early detection of fires.
- Misuse of cooking appliances, overloaded electrical circuits, and extension cords increase the risk of fires.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/campus-and-dorm-fires>, Campus Firewatch <http://www.campus-firewatch.com/SeeIt/>, and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html>

AUGUST WEEK 2

HOARDING



Many fire departments are experiencing serious fires, injuries, and deaths as the result of compulsive hoarding behavior. The excessive accumulation of materials in homes poses a significant threat to firefighters fighting fires and responding to other emergencies in these homes and to residents and neighbors. Often, the local fire department will be contacted to help deal with this serious issue. Since studies suggest that between three and five percent of the population are compulsive hoarders, fire departments must become familiar with this issue and how to effectively handle it.

What is Hoarding?

- Hoarding is defined as collecting or keeping large amounts of various items in the home due to strong urges to save them or distress experienced when discarding them. Many rooms in the home are so filled with possessions that residents can no longer use the rooms as designed. The home is so overloaded with things that everyday living is compromised.

Why do People Become Hoarders?

- Hoarding is a mental disorder that can be genetic in nature, triggered by traumatic events, or a symptom of another disorder, such as depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, or dementia. Studies have found that hoarding usually begins in early adolescence and gets worse as a person ages. It is more common among older adults.

Why Hoarding Increases Fire Risks

- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.

- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

Why is Hoarding an Issue in the Fire Service?

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way.
- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.
- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.
- The weight of the stored items, especially if water is added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.
- Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care.
- The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

How Can You Help Reduce the Risk of Fire Injury

- When talking a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic and respectful. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding.
- Help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home.
- Install working smoke alarms in the home. Test them at least once a month using the test button.
- Reach out to community resources. Talk to members of the fire department to alert them of your concerns. They may be able to connect you with members of a hoarding task force for additional help.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/hoarding-and-fire-safety>

AUGUST WEEK 3

PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the #1 priority for residents is to get out safely.



Safety tips

- As a general rule, firefighting should be left to the fire department. Only adults who know how to use portable fire extinguishers should use them.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Adults who know how to use a portable fire extinguisher should choose one that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

When to Use Fire Extinguishers

- Fire extinguishers are helpful for immediate use on small fires. Before trying to fight a fire, be sure that:
 - You know how to use the fire extinguisher and it is the correct type.
 - Everyone else has left the home and someone is calling the fire department.
 - The fire is small, confined, and not spreading.
 - You have a clear escape route.

Use a fire extinguisher when all of these questions are answered “yes.” If you’re unsure about whether or not it’s safe to use a fire extinguisher, and for all other situations, alert others, leave the building, and call 911 from a mobile or neighbor’s phone. It is not recommended that children use fire extinguishers.

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.



- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:
 - **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
 - **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
 - **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
 - **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.
 - If the fire does not go out after using one extinguisher, back out of the room and get outside.

Types of fire extinguishers



- For use with **ordinary materials like cloth, wood and paper** and often found in homes and businesses



- For use with **combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil and oil-based paints**. Often found in homes and businesses



- For use with **electrical equipment like appliances, tools, or other equipment that is plugged in**. Often found in homes and businesses



- For use with **flammable metals**. Often found in factories



- For use with **vegetable oils, animal oils and fats in cooking appliances**. Often found in commercial kitchens (restaurants, cafeterias, catering businesses)

- There are also multipurpose fire extinguishers that might be labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C." Most home improvement stores carry multipurpose fire extinguishers that cover Class A through Class C.

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

- Easy access in an emergency - be sure nothing is blocking or limiting your ability to reach it. As a general rule, where portable fire extinguishers are installed, a person should not have to travel far (more than 40 feet) to reach one and never have to travel up or down stairs to reach it. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- The recommended pressure level - many extinguishers have gauges that show when pressure is too high or too low.
- Working parts - make sure the can, hoses and nozzles aren't damaged, dented, or rusted.
- Cleanliness - remove any dust, oil, or grease that might be on the outside of the extinguisher.
- Guidelines and instructions - If you have portable fire extinguishers, inspect them once a month and have them serviced annually. As a general rule, portable fire extinguishers for the home should have a rating of at least 2-A:10B

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/fire-and-life-safety-equipment/fire-extinguishers> and United States Fire Administration (USFA) <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/extinguishers.html>

AUGUST WEEK 4

FIRE SAFETY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

There's no place like home. It is a place to relax, share laughs with family, and enjoy home cooked meals. But did you know that the majority of fire deaths occur in the home? Help everyone in the home stay safe from fire.



Home Fire Sprinklers

- Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers allows people more time to escape in a fire. When choosing an apartment or home, look for one that has home fire sprinklers.

Smoke Alarms



- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button. If you can't reach the alarm, ask for help.
- For added safety, interconnect the smoke alarms. If one sounds, they all sound. This gives more time to escape.
- Smoke alarms with sealed (long-life) batteries work for up to 10 years. They can be helpful for people who find it hard to change batteries.

- Smoke alarms expire. Replace them every 10 years.

People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Strobe lights flash when the smoke alarm sounds. The lights warn people of a possible fire.
- When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape.



- When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device can wake them. A pillow or bed shaker may be helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.

Escape Planning

- Include everyone in home escape planning.
- Each person should have input about the best ways to escape.
- Home fire drills are important. Everyone in the home must participate in them.
- Keep a phone by your bed in case you can't escape and need to call for help.
- Talk with someone from the fire department about your escape plan.
- Ask them review your plan.
- Ask if your fire department keeps a directory of people who may need extra help. If you have a service animal, agree on a plan to keep the animal with you during an emergency.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/disabilities.html>



September

“Keeping Your Family Safe”

Week 1 – Babysitting Safety

Week 2 – Smoking

Week 3 – Child Passenger Safety

Week 4 – Safety with Flammable and Combustible Liquids

EVENTS:

9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance

National Preparedness Month

Firefighter Safety Month

Deaf Awareness Month

Child Passenger Safety Month/Week (3rd week in September)

Fall Prevention Awareness Week (Last week of September)



SEPTEMBER WEEK 1

BABYSITTING SAFETY



Having a babysitter can give you peace of mind. It allows you to leave your child with someone you trust. Be sure your babysitter knows about fire safety. Be sure your babysitter knows what to do if there is a fire.

Home Escape Plan

- Show the babysitter your home escape plan and make sure the babysitter understands:
 - Two ways out of every room.
 - Where the outdoor meeting place is located.
 - The fire department or emergency phone number.
 - How to unlock all doors and windows.

Cooking Safety

- If you allow your babysitter to cook, make sure the babysitter:
 - Keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the stove.
 - Keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the microwave oven.
 - Never leaves the room while cooking.



- Keeps anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Keeps pets off surfaces and countertops.

Smoke Alarms

- If the smoke alarm sounds make sure your babysitter knows to:
 - Get out of the home quickly with your child to safety.
 - Use the second way out if smoke is in the way.
 - Get low and go under the smoke to the exit if an escape must be made through smoke.



Other Tips

- Store matches and lighters out of your child’s reach.
- Candles should not be used by your babysitter.
- Make sure your babysitter keeps a 3-foot “kid-free zone” around space heaters.
- Always leave the phone number where you can be reached. Cell phones make this easy. Be sure the babysitter knows the address of the home.

Babysitter Training

- Many places offer babysitter classes. These are online and in the classroom. Some schools and hospitals give training. Classes teach how to care for children. They also teach first aid. They teach CPR. What to do in an emergency is also taught.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>

SEPTEMBER WEEK 2

SMOKING SAFETY

The place where we feel safest — at home — is where most smoking-materials structure fires, deaths, and injuries occur. Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths with the risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age. Also, one out of four fatal victims of smoking-material fires is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire. Smoking material fires are preventable.

Smoking Safety

- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes.
- To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy, or have consumed alcohol.
- If you smoke, smoke outside. Most deaths result from fires that started in living rooms, family rooms and dens or in bedrooms.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Before going to bed, check under furniture cushions and around places where people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight.
- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.



Put It Out

- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. If ashtrays are not available, use a metal can or pail. Never empty smoking material directly into a trash can. Place the ashtrays or metal cans away from anything that can burn.
- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out, and dousing in water or sand is the best way to do that.

Smoking and Medical Oxygen

- Never smoke and never allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

Electronic Cigarettes

- Fires have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, the battery was being charged, or the device was being transported.
- Battery failures have led to small explosions.
- Charge the device as directed by the manufacturer.
- Only use the charger supplied with your device. Do not mix and match components from different manufacturers or from other devices.
- Never leave charging e-cigarettes unattended.
- E-cigarettes should be used with caution.

Information provided by NFPA

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking> and USFA



SEPTEMBER WEEK 3

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Facts

- Road injuries are the leading cause of unintentional deaths to children in the United States.
- Of those children ages 8 and under who died in vehicle crashes in 2014, 26 percent were not restrained by an age-appropriate device such as an infant seat, booster seat or seat belt.

Choose the Right Direction: Rear- or Forward-Facing

- For the best protection, keep your baby in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible – until at least 2 years old. You can find the exact height and weight limit of your car seat on the side or back label. Kids who ride in rear-facing seats have the best protection for the head, neck and spine. It is especially important for rear-facing children to ride in a back seat away from the airbag.
- When your children outgrow a rear-facing seat around age 2, move them to a forward-facing car seat. Keep the seat in the back and make sure to attach the tether after you tighten and lock the seat belt or lower attachments (LATCH). Many car seat labels will tell you exactly how much your child can weigh and still use the lower attachments and top tether. Unhook the lower attachments and use the seat belt once your child reaches the lower attachment weight limit (typically 40 pounds). Check both your child restraint and vehicle manuals to see if there is a weight limit for the tether. If they both agree to a higher weight, it is fine to follow their directions.
- Some forward-facing car seats have harnesses for larger children. Check labels to find the exact height and weight limits for your seat. Discontinue use of the lower attachments or top tether when your child reaches the limits set by your car seat and car manufacturers. You must read both manuals to know about those limits. Not to worry: Once your child meets the lower attachment weight limits, you will switch to a seat belt. Seat belts are made to protect very heavy adults as well as children in car seats and booster seats.



Check the Label

- Look at the label on your car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height and development.
- Your car seat has an expiration date – usually around six years. Find the label and double check to make sure it's still safe. Discard a seat that is expired in a dark trash bag so that it cannot be pulled from the trash and reused.

Know Your Car Seat's History

- Buy a used car seat only if you know it's full crash history. That means you must buy it from someone you know, not from a thrift store or over the internet. Once a car seat has been in a crash or is expired or broken, it needs to be replaced.

Make Sure Your Car Seat is Installed Correctly

- Inch Test. Once your car seat is installed, give it a good tug at the base where the seatbelt goes through it. Can you move it more than an inch side to side or front to back? A properly installed seat will not move more than an inch.
- Pinch Test. Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots (check your car seat manual). With the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at your child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you're good to go.
- For both rear- and forward-facing child safety seats, use either the car's seat belt or the lower attachments and for forward-facing seats, remember to add the top tether to lock the car seat in place. Don't use both the lower attachments and seat belt at the same time. They are equally safe- so pick the one that gives you the best fit.
- If you are having even the slightest trouble, questions or concerns, certified child passenger safety technicians are able to help or even double check your work. A certified technician can confirm your car seat is properly installed. Find a technician or car seat checkup event near you at www.safekids.org or www.nhtsa.gov.



Check Your Car Seat

- Seventy-three percent of car seats are not used or installed correctly, so before you hit the road, check your car seat. Here's a quick [car seat checklist](#) to help you out. It takes only 15 minutes.
- Learn how to install your car seat for free. Safe Kids hosts car seat inspection events across the country where certified technicians can help make sure your car seat is properly installed. They also serve in fixed locations called inspection stations during specific days and times in some communities. You may find an inspection station with certified technicians at a GM dealership, a hospital or even a fire house. They will teach you so that you can always be sure your car seat is used correctly.
- Find a [Safe Kids car seat checkup event](#) where we use only certified technicians near you.

Is it Time for a Booster Seat?

- Take the next step to a booster seat when you answer “yes” to any of these questions:

- Does your child exceed the car seat's height or weight limits?
- Are your child's shoulders above the car seat's top harness slots?
- Are the tops of your child's ears above the top of the car seat?
- If the car seat with a harness still fits and your child is within the weight and height limits, continue to use it until it is outgrown. It provides more protection than a booster seat or seat belt for a small child.

Be Wary of Toys

- Toys can injure your child in a crash, so be extra careful to choose ones that are soft and will not hurt your child. A small, loose toy can be dangerous and injure your baby in a crash. Secure loose objects and toys to protect everyone in the car.

Buckle Up

- We know that when adults wear seat belts, kids wear seat belts. So set a good example and buckle up for every ride. Be sure everyone in the vehicle buckles up, too.
- Buckling up the right way on every ride is the single most important thing a family can do to stay safe in the car.
- Children should ride in a vehicle back seat until they are at least 13 years old.

Prevent Heatstroke

- Never leave your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. While it may be tempting to dash out for a quick errand while your babies are sleeping peacefully in their car seats, the temperature inside your car can rise quickly and cause [heatstroke](#) in the time it takes for you to run in and out of the store.
- Leaving a child alone in a car is against the law in many states.

Information provided by Safe Kids Worldwide <https://www.safekids.org/child-passenger-safety>



SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE™

Never leave your child alone in a car.

Remember to ACT

- A:** Avoid heatstroke.
- C:** Create reminders.
- T:** Take action. Call 911.

[safekids.org](https://www.safekids.org)

SEPTEMBER WEEK 4

SAFETY WITH FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS

Oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes are often used for home improvement projects. It is common to use rags to wipe up spills or clean brushes. But wet rags can ignite on their own. They can start a fire if not handled carefully. The same is true of the liquids themselves and gasoline as well.

Facts

- An average of 1,600 home fires per year are caused by instances of spontaneous combustion or chemical reaction
- An average of 800 home fires per year are started when oily rags catch fire or are ignited.

How can rags start a fire?

- The oils commonly used in oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry. If the heat is not released in the air, it builds up. That is why a pile of oily rags can be dangerous. As the rags dry, the heat is trapped. The heat builds up and finally causes a fire. Be aware that this does not happen with water-based finishes.

How can liquids start a fire?

- Vapors from flammable and combustible liquids can ignite, causing a fire. There are many commonly used flammable liquids. Gasoline, lacquers, and nail polish are just a few examples. There are many commonly used combustible liquids. Paint thinner, kerosene, and oil-based paints and stains are some examples.



Prevent home garage fires.

Store flammable items like oil, gasoline, paints, propane and varnishes in a shed away from your home.

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA | U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Liquids that can catch fire

- Flammable and combustible liquids should not be used near an open flame. Never smoke when you work with flammable or combustible liquids.
- If you spill a flammable liquid on your clothing, place the clothing outside to dry before laundering.
- Keep oil-based paints and flammable and combustible solvents in their original containers and tightly capped — never in breakable glass containers.
- Don't store hazardous liquids near any source of heat, sparks, or flame. That includes electric motors, which can spark when they switch on or off.

Gasoline

- Use gasoline only as a motor fuel, never as a solvent or a degreaser and never as a substitute for charcoal lighter.
- Never bring gasoline indoors, even in small quantities.
- Store gasoline ONLY in a container that is sold for that purpose. Make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use.
- NEVER store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building. Keep them in an outbuilding, a detached garage, or a shed outdoors.
- Keep gasoline out of children's sight and reach. Children should never handle gasoline.
- Store only enough gasoline necessary to power equipment and let machinery cool before refueling it.
- Only fill portable gasoline containers outdoors. Place the container on the ground before filling and never fill containers inside a vehicle or in the bed of a pick-up truck.

Oily Rags

- Never leave cleaning rags in a pile. At the end of the day, take the rags outside to dry.
- Hang the rags outside or spread them on the ground. Weigh them down. Do this so they do not blow away. Make sure they are not in a pile. Keep them away from buildings.
- Put dried rags in a metal container. Make sure the cover is tight. Fill the container with a water and detergent solution. This will break down the oils.
- Keep containers of oily rags in a cool place. Keep them out of direct sunlight. Keep them away from other heat sources. Check with your town for information on disposing of them

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/gasoline-and-propane> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>

October

“Elements of a Fire Safe Home”

Week 1 – Safety in the Laundry Room
Week 2 – Plan and Practice Your Escape (Fire Prevention Week)
Week 3 – Home Fire Sprinklers
Week 4 – Halloween Safety

EVENTS:

National Fire Prevention Month/Week (Week with
10/9) Halloween

National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend

National School Bus Safety Week (3rd week of October)

National Teen Driver Safety Week (3rd week of October)



OCTOBER WEEK 1

SAFETY IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM



In 2010-2014, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated 15,970 home fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines each year. These fires resulted in annual losses estimated at 13 civilian deaths, 440 civilian injuries, and \$238 million in direct property damage.

Facts and figures

- Clothes dryers accounted for 92% of the fires; washing machines 4%, and washer and dryer combinations accounted for 5%.
- The leading factor contributing to the ignition of home fires involving clothes dryers was failure to clean, accounting for one-third (33%) of dryer fires.
- A mechanical or electrical failure or malfunction was involved in the vast majority of home fires involving washing machines.
- Fires involving clothes dryers usually started with the ignition of something that was being dried or was a byproduct (such as lint) of drying, while washing machine fires usually involved the ignition of some part of the appliance.

Safety Tips

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Clean out the dryer's lint filter before each use of the dryer. Remove the lint that has collected around the drum.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipe quarterly or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than usual for your clothes to dry, or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time reduce the risk of fire or fire spread.

- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- Dryers should be properly grounded.
- Check the outdoor vent flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.
- Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.
- Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.
- Keep liquid laundry packets and all other poisons out of children's reach and sight.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/dryers-and-washing-machines> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>



OCTOBER WEEK 2 - FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

About Fire Prevention Week

- Fire Prevention Week is on record as the longest running public health observance, according to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center.
- President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week on October 4-10, 1925, beginning a tradition of the President of the United States signing a proclamation recognizing the occasion. It is observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began October 8, 1871, and did most of its damage October 9.
- The horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

Blaming it on the cow

- According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, located on the property of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary at 137 Dekoven Street on the city's southwest side, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. Mrs. O'Leary denied this charge. Recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.



The making of a pop culture phenomenon

- Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.
- After the Great Fire, Chicago Tribune reporter Michael Ahern published a report that the fire had started when a cow kicked over a lantern while it was being milked. The woman was not named, but Catherine O'Leary was identified. Illustrations and caricatures soon appeared depicting Mrs. O'Leary with the cow.
- In 1893, however, Ahern admitted he had made the story up.
- "Mrs. O'Leary's cow" has attracted the attention and imagination of generations as the cause of the fire. Numerous references, in a variety of media, have been made in American popular culture, including films, television, and popular music.
- But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

The biggest blaze that week

- The Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history, was the biggest blaze that week, but drew little note outside of the region—in and around Peshtigo, Wisconsin— because of the attention drawn by the Great Chicago Fire.
- The Peshtigo Fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.
- Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.
- In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.
- Each year NFPA offers a lot of different resources, including teaching materials for Fire Prevention Week at <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week>

2019 CAMPAIGN

NOT EVERY HERO WEARS A CAPE, PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE

Home Fire Escape Planning and Practice

Home fire escape planning and drills are an essential part of fire safety. A home fire escape plan needs to be developed and practiced before a fire strikes.

Home fire escape planning should include the following:

- Drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows
- Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out
- Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting
- Having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms

Home fire escape practice should include the following:

- Pushing the smoke alarm button to start the drill
- Practicing what to do in case there is smoke: Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practicing using different ways out and closing doors behind you as you leave
- Never going back for people, pets, or things
- Going to your outdoor meeting place
- Calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Cooking

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fire involving cooking equipment.
- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.



Heating

- Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.
- Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Have a qualified professional install heating equipment.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

If a wildfire is threatening your home:

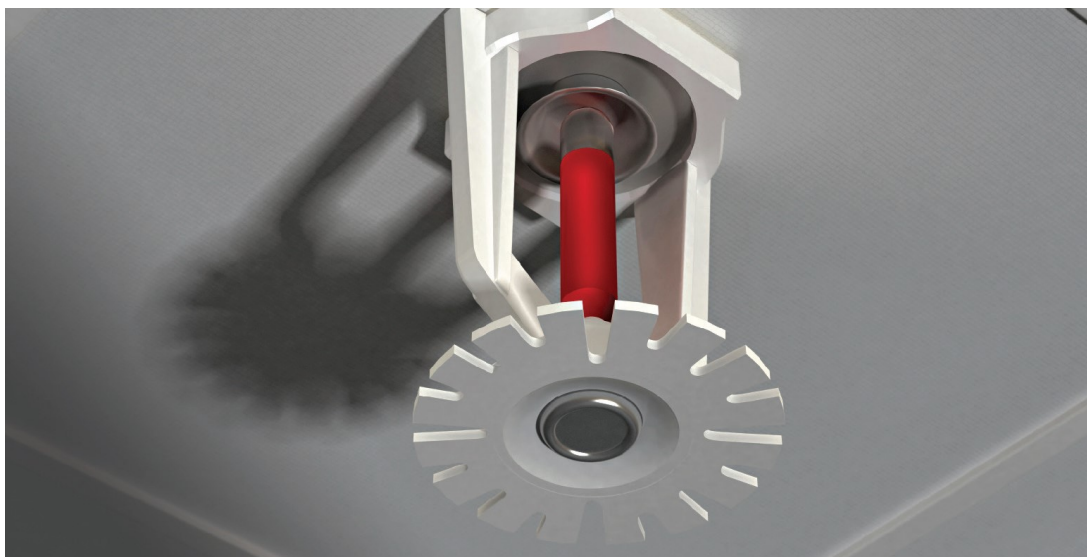
- Create a plan for evacuation that includes alternate routes out of the danger area.
- Have prepacked kits with essentials such as medicine, family records, credit cards, a change of clothing, and food and water.
- Create a family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication.
- Prepare a plan for the care of pets and other animals.
- Sign up for wildfire alerts.
- Take steps to protect family, friends, or neighbors who have disabilities.
- Stay aware of local fire conditions. When told to evacuate, go promptly. If you feel unsafe, do not wait for an evacuation order—leave immediately.



Information and additional resources provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week-audience> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>

OCTOBER WEEK 3

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS



Because fire sprinklers react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire. Properly installed and maintained fire sprinklers help save lives.

Home fire sprinklers include a network of piping filled with water under pressure that are installed behind the walls and ceilings, and individual sprinklers are placed along the piping to protect the areas beneath them. Because the water is always in the piping, fire sprinklers are always "on call". If fire breaks out, the air temperature above the fire rises and the sprinkler activates when the air temperature gets high enough. The sprinkler sprays water forcefully over the flames, extinguishing them completely in most cases, or at least controlling the heat and limiting the development of toxic smoke until the fire department arrives. Only the sprinkler nearest the fire activates. Smoke will not activate sprinklers.

Fire sprinklers have been around for more than a century, protecting commercial and industrial properties and public buildings. What many people don't realize is that the same life-saving technology is also available for homes, where roughly 85% of all civilian fire deaths occur.

Facts about home fire sprinklers

Automatic sprinklers are highly effective and reliable elements of total system designs for fire protection in buildings. According to an American Housing Survey, 4.6% of occupied homes (including multi-unit) had sprinklers in 2009, up from 3.9% in 2007, and 18.5% of occupied home built in the previous four years had sprinklers.

- 85% of all U.S. fire deaths occur in the home.
- Home fire sprinklers can control and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. In 84% of home fires where the sprinklers operate, just one sprinkler operates.

- If you have a fire in your home, the risk of dying is cut by about one-third when smoke alarms are present (or about half if the smoke alarms are working), while automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying by about 80%.
- In a home with sprinklers, the average property loss per fire is cut by about 70% (compared to fires where sprinklers are not present.)
- The cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot.

General Tips

- Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers can reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire, allowing people more time to escape.
- Home fire sprinklers activate on an individual basis. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire and not the rest of the home.
- A home fire sprinkler can control or put out a fire with a fraction of the water that would be used by fire department hoses.
- Accidental sprinkler discharges are rare.
- Home fire sprinklers can be installed in new or existing homes. If you are remodeling or building your home, install home fire sprinklers.

Installation

- Have a qualified contractor install your home fire sprinkler system according to NFPA codes and standards and local fire safety regulations.
- Home fire sprinklers work along with smoke alarms to save lives.

Maintenance

- The home fire sprinkler installer must provide instructions on inspecting, testing, and maintaining the system, a simple process that can be performed by the home occupant. A visual inspection should be done each month to ensure that the water valve on the sprinkler system is open.
- Make sure that your home fire sprinkler system is working properly by
- Conducting a visual inspection of all home fire sprinklers to make sure nothing is blocking them and nothing is hung from or attached to them. This should be done each month.
- Doing a water flow test on the sprinkler system every six months or having a fire sprinkler contractor do the test to ensure all water flow devices are working.
- Keeping home fire sprinklers clear and free of objects that can interfere with their proper use.
- Inspecting tanks, if present, each month to make sure that they are full.
- Starting the pump each month if you have one to make sure that it works and that it does not trip any circuit breakers.
- Not painting fire sprinklers. If you are painting, cover the sprinkler head with a bag and remove after the work is done.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/fire-and-life-safety-equipment/home-fire-sprinklers>, Fire Sprinkler Initiative <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools/fact-sheets/how-sprinklers-work.aspx>, and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/sprinklers.html>

OCTOBER WEEK 4

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Children dressed in costumes excitedly running door to door to trick-or-treat, festive decorations like glowing jack-o-lanterns, paper ghosts and dried cornstalks adorning front porches – these are some of the classic hallmarks of Halloween that make the holiday special for kids and adults alike.

Unfortunately, these Halloween symbols and activities can also present lurking fire risks that have the potential to become truly scary. But by planning ahead, you can help make this Halloween a fire-safe one. Taking simple fire safety precautions like keeping decorations far away from open flames and using battery-operated candles or glow-sticks in jack-o-lanterns can help ensure your holiday remains festive and fun!

Halloween by the numbers

- From 2009-2013, decorations were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 860 reported home structure fires per year.
- Nearly half of decoration fires in homes occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source.
- These fires caused an estimated average of one civilian death, 41 civilian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year.
- Forty-one percent of these incidents were started by candles; one-fifth began in the living room, family room, or den.
- Kids are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.



Fire Safety Tips

- When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.





- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)
- If your children are going to Halloween parties at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Walk Safely

- Children under 12 should trick-or-treat and cross streets with an adult. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.



Trick or Treat With an Adult

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.

Double Check Candy and Costumes

- Check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them.
- Remind children to eat only treats in original, unopened wrappers.
- Candy should be thrown away if the wrapper is faded or torn, or if the candy is unwrapped.
- While glow sticks are good for visibility, remember that the liquid in glow sticks is also hazardous, so parents should remind children not to chew on or break them.
- Look for non-toxic designations when choosing Halloween makeup.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distance

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/halloween-safety> , Safe Kids Worldwide <https://www.safekids.org/halloween>, and USFA https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/snapshot_halloween.html



November

“A Fire-Safe Thanksgiving”

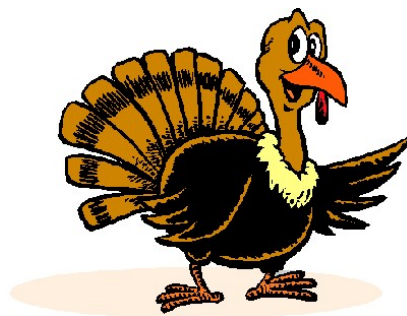
Week 1 – Prepare for Winter Storms
Week 2 – Electrical Hazards
Week 3 – Thanksgiving Fire Safety
Week 4 – Home Heating

EVENTS:

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness Week (1st full week)

Thanksgiving Holiday

Military Family Month



NOVEMBER WEEK 1

PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

The threat of winter fires is real. Use these statistics to help citizens understand the severity and prevalence of winter fires.



Winter fire safety by the numbers

- Home fires occur more in the winter than in any other season.
- Heating equipment is involved in 1 of every 6 reported home fires, and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths
- 905 people die in winter home fires each year.
- \$2,091,000,000 in property loss occurs from winter home fires.
- 67 percent of winter fires occur in one- and two-family homes.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.
- 5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

Get Ahead of Winter Freeze Checklist

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

1. Our furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
2. Our chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional.
3. I have checked for creosote built-up.
 - Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.
4. Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood.
5. Our fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
6. We have a covered metal container ready to use to dispose cooled ashes.
 - The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.
7. Our children know to stay at least 3 feet away from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
 - Our portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off.
 - Our portable space heaters will be plugged directly into an outlet (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)
8. We have tested our smoke alarms and made sure they are working.

9. You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
10. We have tested our carbon monoxide alarms and made sure they are working.
 - Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

Fire Safety During Winter Storms

- Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.
- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room.
- Turn them off when you go to bed.



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/severe-storm-fire-safety> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html>

NOVEMBER WEEK 2

ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Electricity helps make our lives easier but there are times when we can take its power and its potential for fire-related hazards for granted.

Facts & figures

- Between 2010 and 2014, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an average of 45,210 home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction. These fires caused annual averages of 420 civilian deaths, 1,370 civilian injuries, and \$1.4 billion in direct property damage.
- The bedroom was the leading area of origin for home fires involving lamps, light fixtures, and bulbs, with 22% of the total
- Extension cords account for the greatest share of home fires involving cords or plugs, with 57% of the fire total.

Inside the Home

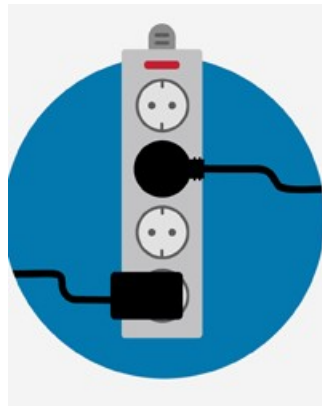
- Electrical work should be done only by a qualified electrician. Some communities require that a person doing electrical work have a license. Find out about the laws in your area.
- Have your home electrical system inspected by a qualified professional when buying, selling, or renovating a home.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn, including furniture, bedding, curtains, clothing, and flammable or combustible gases and liquids.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips often, find out why and get the problem corrected before turning the breaker back on or replacing the fuse. Have a qualified electrician inspect and fix it.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles where needed. Tamper resistant receptacles are required for new and replacement receptacles inside your home. Where tamper-resistant receptacles are not installed, install new protective outlet covers, which do not allow a child to insert an object into the wall outlet.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord with a major appliance—it can easily overheat and start a fire.
- Small appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Window air conditioners should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Many manufacturers of room air conditioners prohibit the use of extension cords. If the manufacturer's instructions allow extension cords, follow the instructions for the proper type.
- Buy only appliances that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Check electrical cords often. Replace cracked, damaged, and loose electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched by furniture, under rugs and carpets, or



across doorways.

- Use only surge protectors or power strips that have internal overload protection. Use surge protectors or power strips that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician determine if additional circuits or wall outlets are needed.
- Replace wall outlets if plugs do not fit snugly or the wall outlet does not accept plugs with one blade larger than the other.
- All wall outlets and switches should be covered with wall plates to prevent shocks.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles where needed. Tamper resistant receptacles are required for new and replacement receptacles inside your home. Where tamper-resistant receptacles are not installed, install new protective outlet covers, which do not allow a child to insert an object into the wall outlet.
- Call a qualified electrician if you have any of the following:

- recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- discolored or warm wall outlets or switches
- a burning smell or rubbery odor coming from an appliance
- flickering lights
- sparks from a wall outlet
- cracked or broken wall outlets



Don't overload power strips.

Use power strips that have internal overload protection.

U.S. Fire Administration



- Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Have a qualified electrician install AFCIs in your home.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off electricity when it becomes a shock hazard. Make sure GFCIs are installed in bathrooms, basements, garages, outdoors, at kitchen counters, and in other locations in the home where electricity is near water.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month by pushing the test button to make sure they are working properly.

Outside the Home

- Electrical work should be done by a qualified electrician.
- Keep ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders outdoors.
- Never touch a power line. You could be injured or electrocuted. Assume that all power lines are live. Stay at a safe distance.
- Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. You could be injured or electrocuted.
- Report downed power lines to authorities.
- Some power lines are underground. Call your local authority to have lines identified and marked before digging. You can also call the national 8-1-1 "Call before you dig" number.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/electrical> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/electrical.html>

NOVEMBER WEEK 3

THANKSGIVING FIRE SAFETY



For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. From testing family recipes to decorating cakes and cookies, everyone enjoys being part of the preparations. So keeping fire safety top of mind in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time is important, especially when there's a lot of activity and people at home. As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing that large family feast, remember, by following a few simple safety tips you can enjoy time with your loved ones and keep yourself and your family safer from fire.

Thanksgiving by the numbers

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- In 2014, nearly four times as many home cooking fires occur on Thanksgiving as on a typical day.
- In 2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,730 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Cooking equipment was involved in almost half (48%) of all reported home fires and civilian and tied with heating equipment for the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

Turkey Fryers

NFPA continues to believe that turkey fryers that use cooking oil, as currently designed, are not suitable for safe use by even a well-informed and careful consumer. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. In addition, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, and the destruction of property. NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants, for the preparation of the dish, or consider a new type of "oil less" turkey fryer.



- If frying your own turkey is an absolute must, the following safety measures should be carefully followed:
 - Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other flammable materials.
 - Never use turkey fryers in a garage or on a wooden deck.
 - Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.

- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you do not watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer even if it is not in use. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water do not mix, and water causes oil to spill over causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.
- The National Turkey Federation (NTF) recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every five pounds in weight.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. If the fire is manageable, use your all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call the fire department for help.

General Thanksgiving Tips

- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



Stay Alert

- To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.

Watch What You Heat!

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

Keeping Things That Can Catch Fire Away from Heat Sources

- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains—away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and can catch fire if it comes in contact with a gas flame or an electric burner.



What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire

- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
- Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
- Never discharge a portable fire extinguisher into a grease fire because it will spread the fire.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed until it is cool. After a fire, the oven should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.
- When in doubt, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. After you leave, call 9-1-1 or the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's telephone.

Keeping Children and Pets Away from the Cooking Area

- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Keep pets off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto the burner.

Safe Cooking Equipment

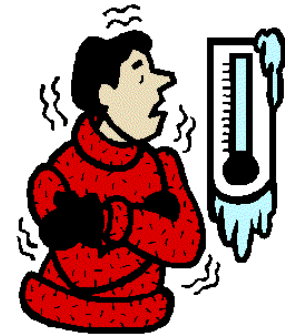
- Always use cooking equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and code requirements when installing, using, or cleaning cooking equipment. Follow the manufacturer's instructions when cleaning and operating cooking equipment.
- Plug microwave ovens or other cooking appliances directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance—it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- Check electrical cords for cracks, breaks, damage, or overheating. Have a professional repair the appliance or cord as needed, or replace the appliance.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/cooking.html>

NOVEMBER WEEK 4

HOME HEATING SAFETY

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.



Facts & figures

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for two of every five (40%) of home heating fires and four out of five (84%) of home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (30%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (56%) of home heating fire deaths.
- Nearly half (49%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.

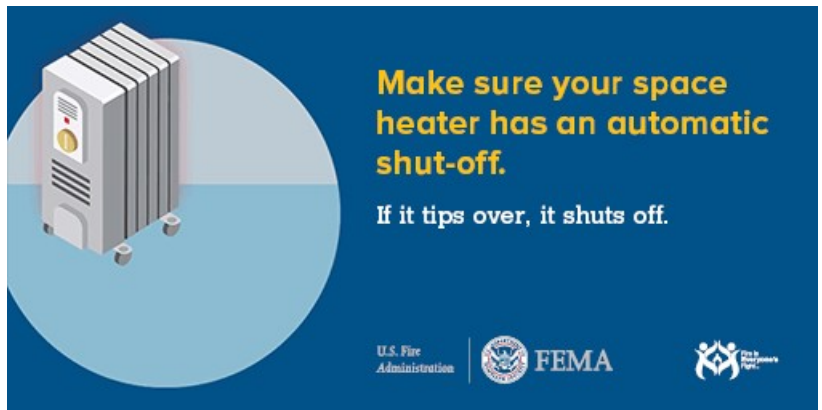
General Heating

- Have a 3-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Supervise children whenever a wood or oil stove or other space heater is being used. Use a sturdy metal screen to prevent contact burns, which are more common than flame burns.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Use heating equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Never use your oven or stove for heating. Ovens and stoves are not designed to heat your home.
- Install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to local codes and the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have a qualified professional install the equipment.
- Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Carbon monoxide is created when fuels burn incompletely. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause illness and even death. Make sure the venting for exhaust is kept clear and unobstructed. This includes removal of snow and ice and other debris around the outlet to the outside.
- Choose a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

Portable Electric Space Heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Purchase and use space heaters that have an automatic shut-off—if they tip over, they shut off.

- Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them and their electrical cords away from things that can burn, high traffic areas, and doorways.
- Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
- Do not plug anything else into the same circuit as the one you are using for your space heater.
- Doing so could result in overheating.
- Check often for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug does not fit snugly into the wall outlet or if the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced. Have a qualified electrician replace the wall outlet.
- Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace them before using the space heater.



Fuel-Burning Space Heaters

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool first and then refuel outside.
- When using the space heater, open a window to ensure proper ventilation.
- Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in some communities. Check with your local fire department before using.
- Use the proper grade of fuel in portable kerosene or other liquid-fueled space heaters.
- All new unvented gas-fired space heaters have an oxygen depletion sensor that detects a reduced level of oxygen in the area where the heater is operating and shuts off the heater before a hazardous level of carbon monoxide accumulates. If you have an older heater without this feature, replace it with one that does.
- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow 5 minutes or more for the gas to go away before trying to relight the pilot. Follow manufacturer’s instructions when relighting the pilot. Do not allow gas to accumulate, and light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot to avoid risk of flashback.
- If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the building immediately and call 911 and the gas company.

Wood-Burning and Pellet Stoves

- Have a qualified professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys following the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Wood stoves should be listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. Not only is it cleaner for the environment, it also creates less buildup in the chimney.
- In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Start the fire with newspaper, kindling, or fire starters. Never use a flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline, to start a fire. They produce invisible vapors that can easily catch fire.



- Keep the odors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep ash container at least 10 feet away from the home and any other nearby buildings. Never empty the ash directly into a trash can. Douse and saturate the ashes with water.
- Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

Fireplaces

- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place. Gas fireplace doors can reach excessive temperatures (1300 degrees Fahrenheit). Serious burn injuries from hot glass can happen in less than one second. Install a screen barrier.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Never burn trash in the fireplace. Not only is it cleaner for the environment, it also creates less buildup in the chimney.
- Use artificial fire logs according to manufacturer’s recommendations. Never burn more than one log at a time.
- Use only newspaper and kindling wood for fire starters to start a fire. Never use flammable liquids, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline, to start a fire. They produce invisible vapors that can easily catch fire.
- Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.
- Keep children and pets away from the outside vents. Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can remain dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.



Central Heating

- Furnaces need to be inspected and serviced at least once a year by a qualified professional.
- Keep things that can burn at least 3 feet away from the furnace. Keep the furnace area clean and uncluttered.
- If you smell gas, do not light the appliance. Leave the building immediately and call 9-1-1 and the gas company.



Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/heating.html>

December

“Holiday Fire Safety”

Week 1 – Vehicle and Fuel Safety

Week 2 - Christmas Tree Safety

Week 3 Winter Holiday Safety

Week 4 – Call 9-1-1 for Emergencies

EVENTS:

Holidays

Safe Toys and Gifts Month



DECEMBER WEEK 1

VEHICLE AND FUEL SAFETY

Cars can catch fire for many reasons. Mechanical or electrical issues are the most common cause. A car can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash. If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, respond immediately. U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 152,300 automobile fires per year in 2006-2010. These fires caused an average of 209 civilian deaths, 764 civilian injuries, and \$536 million in direct property damage.



Facts and Figures

- Automobile fires were involved in 10% of reported U.S. fires, 6% of U.S. fire deaths.
- On average, 17 automobile fires were reported per hour. These fires killed an average of four people every week.
- Mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in roughly two-thirds of the automobile fires.
- Collisions and overturns were factors in only 4% of highway vehicle fires, but these incidents accounted for three of every five (60%) automobile fire deaths.

What to do if your car is on fire

- Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, be sure to use your signal as you make your way to a safe location off the road such as the breakdown lane or rest stop.
- Once you have stopped, TURN OFF the engine.
- GET everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car for anything.
- MOVE everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- CALL 9-1-1.

How to prevent a car fire

- Have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly, get it checked. A well-maintained car is less likely to have a fire.
- If you must transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.
- Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment.
- Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.
- Check your vehicle for recalls at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website <https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls#vehicle>.

How to prevent Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

- Remove vehicles from the garage right away after starting. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.
- Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor in a garage, even if garage doors are open. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.

- Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked with snow, ice, or other materials. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.
- Check to make sure your vehicle is off if it is in the garage and if you have an automatic engine starter.
- The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.

Know the danger signs

- Cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once
- Oil or fluid leaks
- Oil cap not on securely
- Rapid changes in fuel or fluid level, or engine temperature

Service station safety tips

- Turn off your vehicle's engine when refueling.
- Keep gasoline and other fuels out of children's sight and reach. Gasoline is highly toxic in addition to being a fire hazard. **NEVER** allow a child to pump gas.
- Don't smoke, light matches or use lighters while refueling.
- Pay attention to what you're doing. Pumping gas is the transfer of a hazardous substance; don't engage in other activities.
- If you must use any electronic device, such as cell phones, computers or portable radios while refueling, follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Use only the refueling latch on the gasoline dispenser nozzle, if there is one. Do not jam the latch with an object to hold it open.
- To avoid spills, do not top off or overfill your vehicle.
- After pumping gasoline, leave the nozzle in the tank opening for a few seconds to avoid drips when you remove it.
- If a fire starts while you're refueling, don't remove the nozzle from the vehicle or try to stop the flow of gasoline. Leave the area immediately and call for help.
- Don't get in and out of your vehicle while refueling. A static electric charge can develop on your body as you slide across the seat, and when you reach for the pump, a spark can ignite gasoline vapor.
- If you must get into the vehicle during refueling, discharge any static electricity by touching metal on the outside of the vehicle, away from the filling point, before removing the nozzle from your vehicle.
- Use only approved portable containers for transporting or storing gasoline. Make sure the container is in a stable position.
- Never fill a portable container when it is in or on the vehicle. Always place the container on the ground first. Fires caused by static charges have occurred when people filled portable containers in the back of pick-up trucks, particularly those with plastic bed liners. Removing the container will also prevent a dangerous spill of gasoline.
- When filling a portable container, keep the nozzle in direct contact with the container. Fill it only about 95 percent full to leave room for expansion.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/vehicles/vehicle-safety-tips>

DECEMBER WEEK 2

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

On average fire departments nationwide respond to 210 home fires yearly caused by Christmas trees. These fires caused an average of 6 deaths, 16 injuries, and \$16.2 million in direct property damage annually. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.

Facts

- On average, one of every 34 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires.
- Some type of electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in one-third (35%) of home Christmas tree fires.
- Twenty-three percent of Christmas tree fires were intentional.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.
- Two of every five (38%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den.

Picking the Tree

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- If you choose a live tree, select one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Placing the Tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.



- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the Tree

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of light with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/winter-holiday-safety> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html>

DECEMBER WEEK 3

WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles. Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season..



Facts

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 860 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2009-2013. These fires caused an annual average of one civilian fire death, 41 civilian fire injuries and \$13.4 million in direct property damage.
- Ten percent of decoration fires were intentional.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in nearly half (45%) of the fires.
- One-fifth (20%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. One out of six (17%) started in the living room, family room or den.
- One-fifth (20%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December.
- Candles started 38% of home decoration structure fires.
- Half (51%) of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to one-third (35%) in January to November.
- The top three days for home candle fires were Christmas, New Year's Day, and Christmas Eve.

Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.



Use holiday lighting safely.

Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires. Turn off all your holiday lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Extinguish candles when you leave a room or the home or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Think Safety around Fireworks for New Years

To avoid the risk of injury and property damage associated with consumer fireworks, join other community members in attending a public show put on by trained and licensed professionals.

Fireworks by the numbers



- Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 16,900 outside and other fires. These fires caused an average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and an average of \$43 million in direct property damage.
- In 2015, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an

estimated 11,900 people for fireworks related injuries; 51% of those injuries were to the extremities and 41% were to the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for one-quarter (26%) of the estimated 2015 injuries.

If consumer fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Little arms are too short to hold sparklers, which can heat up to 1,200 degrees. How about this? Let your young children use glow sticks instead. They can be just as fun but they don't burn at a temperature hot enough to melt glass.
- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks.
- Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.

- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
 - Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
 - Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
 - Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves and flammable substances.
 - Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

Be Prepared for an Accident or Injury

- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
- Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- If someone is injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital or call 9-1-1. If an eye injury occurs, don't allow victim to touch or rub it, as this may cause even more damage.

Information provided by NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/winter-holiday-safety/holiday-fires-by-the-numbers>; <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/fireworks>, Safe Kids Worldwide <https://www.safekids.org/tip/fireworks-safety-tips>, and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html>



DECEMBER WEEK 4

CALLING 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, call 9-1-1 immediately from any wired or wireless phone.



What is an emergency?

- Any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department, or ambulance. Examples include:
 - A fire
 - A crime, especially if in progress
 - A car crash, especially if someone is injured
 - A medical emergency, such as someone who is unconscious, gasping for air or not breathing, experiencing an allergic reaction, having chest pain, having uncontrollable bleeding, or any other symptoms that require immediate medical attention

If you're not sure whether the situation is a true emergency, officials recommend calling 9-1-1 and letting the call-taker determine whether you need emergency help.

When calling 9-1-1

Be prepared to answer the call-taker's questions, which may include:

- Location: The wireless 9-1-1 caller must be aware that the 9-1-1 center that answers the call may not be the 9-1-1 center that services the area that the wireless caller is calling from. Look for landmarks, cross street signs and buildings. Know the name of the city or county you are in. Knowing the location is vital to getting the appropriate police, fire or EMS units to respond. Providing an accurate address is critically important when making a wireless 9-1-1 call.
- Phone number you are calling from
- Nature of the emergency
- Details about the emergency, such as a physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, a description of any fire that may be burning, or a description of injuries or symptoms being experienced by a person having a medical emergency



Remember, the call-taker's questions are important to get the right kind of help to you quickly. Be prepared to follow any instructions the call-taker gives you. Many 9-1-1 centers can tell you exactly what to do until help arrives, such as providing step-by-step instructions to aid someone who is choking or needs first aid or CPR. Do not hang up until the call-taker instructs you to. It is very important that you stay as calm as possible and answer all the questions the 9-1-1 call taker asks. The questions 9-1-1 call takers ask, no matter how irrelevant they seem, are important in helping get the first responders to you as fast as possible.

Teach your children to call 9-1-1

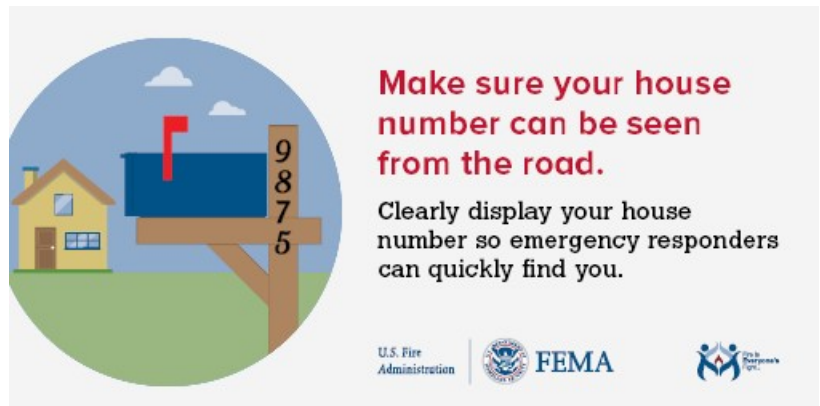
- Be sure they know what 9-1-1 is, how to dial from your home and cell phone, and to trust the 9-1-1 call taker. Make sure your child is physically able to reach at least one phone in your home. When calling 9-1-1 your child needs to know their name, parent's name, telephone number, and most importantly their address. Tell them to answer all the call takers questions and to stay on the phone until instructed to hang up.

Accidental Call

- If you dial 9-1-1 by mistake, or if a child in your home dials 9-1-1 when no emergency exists, do not hang up—that could make 9-1-1 officials think that an emergency exists, and possibly send responders to your location. Instead, simply explain to the call-taker what happened.

Post your address

- Posting your 9-1-1 address at the driveway entrance and on your home will alleviate any confusion as to whether emergency responders have the correct location.
- Try using something reflective or illuminated so that it can be seen in the evening as well as during the day.
- Do not assume since your mailbox is marked that you have posted your address. Mailboxes are not always at the entrance of a driveway and usually are not marked clearly on both sides.
- Several cities and counties have ordinances for posting 9-1-1 addresses - check with your local ones.
- Always report missing street signs when noted - these not only help others find your home but are essential to emergency response personnel.



Information provided by the National 911 Program <https://www.911.gov/whentocall911.html> and USFA <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>