**September**

**Week 1- Babysitting Safety:**

When hiring a babysitter make sure they know about fire safety and what to do if a fire occurs in your home. Show your sitter your home escape plan and make sure your babysitter understands it thoroughly. If you allow your babysitter to cook, make sure she/he keeps a 3-foot radius away from the stove or microwave oven and never leaves the room while cooking.

If the smoke alarm sounds make sure your babysitter knows to get out of the home quickly, if necessary get low to the ground, under the smoke, and crawl to the closest exit.

As a parent, always leave a phone number for you to be contacted at in case of emergency and that the babysitter knows the address of the home. It is a good idea to get a babysitter that has taken classes on child safety.

**Week 2- Smoking:**

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. If you smoke, be sure to only use fire-safe cigarettes. Always be alert when smoking to avoid a deadly cigarette fire. You can do this by making sure you aren’t sleepy, haven’t taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy, or consumed any alcohol. Make sure you smoke outside because most deaths result from smoking fires started in living rooms or bedrooms. Be sure to keep all cigarettes, lighter, matches, and other smoking materials out of the reach of children and locked away.

When outing a cigarette out, it’s helpful to dowse the butt in water after putting it out. Never empty smoking material directly into the trashcan. Never smoke around medical oxygen, it can make an existing flame burn faster and hotter.

Electronic cigarettes start fires too. Battery failures have led to small explosions. Make sure to charge the device as directed by the manufacturer and never leave a charging e-cigarettes unattended.

**Week 3- Child Passenger Safety:**

Road injuries are the leading cause of unintentional deaths to children 8 ages and under in the United States. One decision about child passenger safety you must make is choosing the right direction of the car seat. For the best protection, keep your baby in a rear –facing car seat for as long as possible, until at least 2 years of age. Keep the seat in the backseat away from airbags. 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.

Buying a used car seat is only recommended if you know the car seats history and it is still in mint condition. 73% of car seats aren’t installed or used properly, so make sure you follow all directions that come with your car seat, or look at the car seat safety checklist online. It is also important to know when it’s time for a booster eat instead of a car seat. If your child exceeds the car seats height or weight requirements, your child’s shoulders are above the car seat’s top harness slots, or the top of your child’s ears above the top of the car seat it is time for a booster seat.

**Week 4- Safety with Flammable and Combustible Liquids:**

An average of 1,600 home fires per year are caused by instances of spontaneous combustion or chemical reaction and an average of 800 home fires per year are started when oily rags catch fire or are ignited. Never smoke when you work with flammable or combustible liquids. 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.

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.

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