

Monthly Fire Prevention Planning Guide 2020



Mission Statement

Work to lower the fire death rate in the state, while being an ambassador for the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office.

Goals:

The goal for the Statewide Public Fire Education Program is to focus resources where they matter most. This method of focused fire prevention will specifically target high-risk areas of the state with crucial fire prevention messages. While working with local fire departments, the goal is to accomplish the following in each of the targeted areas:

- Provide resources to assure that all residential structures have working smoke alarms.
- Provide local fire departments with resources to conduct door-to-door public education programs including offering home fire safety surveys.
- Educate and promote what to do in the event of a fire. In particular, promote using escape plans and practicing exit drills.
- Promote the public fire education messages that are specific to each community.
- Establish community involvement and awareness about fire safety with local officials.
- Provide outreach to high risk populations within the targeted areas.
- Use local media and other technology to reach high risk targets.

The majority of the public education topics used to support this program are from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) publication titled, "NFPA Educational Messages Desk Reference." These topics are introduced into monthly plans from existing state and local sources. The result is a comprehensive public fire education plan or guide for use by state and local officials.

Please utilize the information provided within this guide to promote fire prevention and life safety measures.

Fire in West Virginia

The fire problem varies across the country. This can be a result of regional factors, such as climate, poverty, education and demographics. One of the most useful ways to compare fire fatalities across groups of people is to look at their relative risk of dying in a fire.

The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) recent report on "Relative Risk of Dying in a Fire by State" shows West Virginia has a relative risk of (2.2). Relative risk compares the per capita rate of a particular group to the overall per capita rate. Overall, people living in 25 states and the District of Columbia had a higher risk of dying in a fire in 2013 than the U.S. general population

JANUARY 2020

Theme: Be warm and safe this winter

Week 1 – Senior Safety – Check on your senior neighbors during cold weather

Week 2 – Winter Weather

Week 3 – Heating Hazards: Portable Heaters

Week 4 – Manufactured Home Safety

National Fire Service History

- January 11, 1820 - GA Fire Damages 463 houses
- January 13, 1908 - Rhodes Opera House Fire (170 deaths)
- January 21, 1924 - PA Refinery Explodes (7 FF's Killed)
- January 7, 1950 - Iowa Mercy Hospital Fire (41 deaths)
- January 28, 1961 - Chicago Warehouse Wall Collapse (9 FF deaths)
- January 30, 2014 - Kentucky family dies in a home fire started by baseboard heater (9 deaths)

West Virginia Fire Service History

On January 3, 1921, the State Capitol in Charleston was destroyed by fire.



Education Resources:

Senior Safety

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](#) : A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults, was developed by NFPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help older adults live safely at home for as long as possible. The program is built around 16 key safety messages – eight fire prevention and eight fall prevention.

Safety tips

To increase fire safety for older adults, NFPA offers the following guidelines:

•Keep it low

If you don't live in an apartment building, consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escape easier. Make sure that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping room and outside any sleeping areas. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency. When looking for an apartment or high-rise home, look for one with an automatic sprinkler system. Sprinklers can extinguish a home fire in less time that it takes for the fire department to arrive.

•Sound the alarm

The majority of fatal fires occur when people are sleeping, and because smoke can put you into a deeper sleep rather than waking you, it's important to have a mechanical early warning of a fire to ensure that you wake up. If anyone in your household is deaf or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency. View a list of product manufacturers.

•Do the drill

Conduct your own, or participate in, regular fire drills to make sure you know what to do in the event of a home fire. If you or someone you live with cannot escape alone, designate a member of the household to assist, and decide on backups in case the designee isn't home. Fire drills are also a good opportunity to make sure that everyone is able to hear and respond to smoke alarms.

•Open up

Make sure that you are able to open all doors and windows in your home. Locks and pins should open easily from inside. (Some apartment and high-rise buildings have windows designed not to open.) If you have security bars on doors or windows, they should have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened easily. These devices won't compromise your safety, but they will enable you to open the window from inside in the event of a fire. Check to be sure that windows haven't been sealed shut with paint or nailed shut; if they have, arrange for someone to break the seals all around your home or remove the nails.

•Stay connected

Keep a telephone nearby, along with emergency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke.

10
Tips

Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze

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.

- 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.)*
- Our **chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected** by a qualified professional. 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.)*
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- Our **fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- 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.)*
- 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.)*
- We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. *(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.)*
- 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.)*



Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

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.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



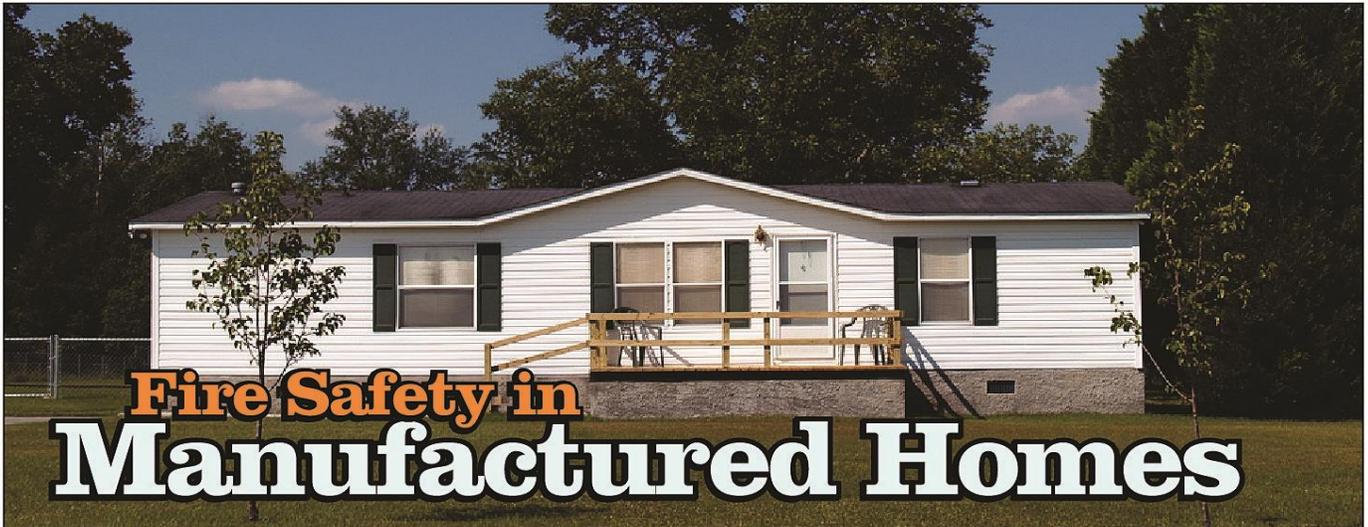
FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo



Fire Safety in Manufactured Homes

If buying or renting a manufactured home is in your future, make sure you keep fire safety in mind. By following a few tips and knowing the facts and the safety requirements for manufactured homes, you can help keep your family safe.

SAFETY TIPS

- » CHOOSE a home built after 1976 that has the HUD label certifying that it meets certain minimum safety standards.
- » Be sure your home has enough smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and in or near the family/live room area(s). For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.
- » TEST smoke alarms at least once a month.
- » HAVE a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place. Make sure all ways out of the home are easy to use. Practice your fire drill at least twice a year.
- » If smoke alarms sound when you are cooking, consider moving the alarm further from the kitchen area or install a photoelectric type alarm which is less sensitive to cooking.
- » NEVER remove or disable a smoke alarm.
- » CONSIDER having a licensed electrician inspect the electrical system to be sure it is safe and meets the applicable National Electrical Code® requirements.
- » Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.
- » Have smokers smoke outside the home. Provide large, non-tip ashtrays and empty them frequently. Douse butts with water before throwing away.

FACT

Smoke alarms are missing in half of all manufactured home fires. Since they are required to be sold with smoke alarms, this may mean people are removing them.

HEAT SENSE

Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Buy space heaters with automatic shut-off switches. Turn off portable space heaters before falling asleep or when leaving a room.

Never leave a lit candle unattended. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Keep gasoline, charcoal lighter and other flammable liquids locked in an outdoor shed. Never store items under the home. Store firewood away from the home.



Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FEBRUARY 2020

Theme: Burn Awareness and Prevention

Week 1 – Preventing Scalds & Burns

Week 2 – Fire Safety for Children

Week 3 – Kitchen Grease Fire Safety

Week 4 – Candle with Care

Events:

Fire Commission Meeting

West Virginia ESCAPe 2020 – Emergency Services Conference at Pipestem

National Fire Service History

- February 5, 1898 - Boston Building Collapse - 6 FF's Killed
- February 7, 1904 - Great Baltimore Fire
- February 13, 1909 - WI Wall Collapse kills 6 FF's
- February 3, 1939 - NY Building Collapse 9 FF's Killed
- February 16, 1955 - Baltimore Building Collapse Kills 6 FF's
- February 14, 1958 - NY Building Collapse Kills 6 FF's
- February 26, 1993 - World Trade Center Bombing
- February 20, 2003 - RI Station Nightclub Fire (100 Deaths)



Scald Prevention

Safety Tips

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.

Scald Safety

- » Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- » Always supervise a child in or near a bathtub.
- » Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius).
- » Before placing a child in the bath or getting in the bath yourself, test the water.
- » Test the water by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- » Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- » Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- » Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- » Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- » Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- » Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.
- » Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.

Burn Rx

Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3–5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

FACT!

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.

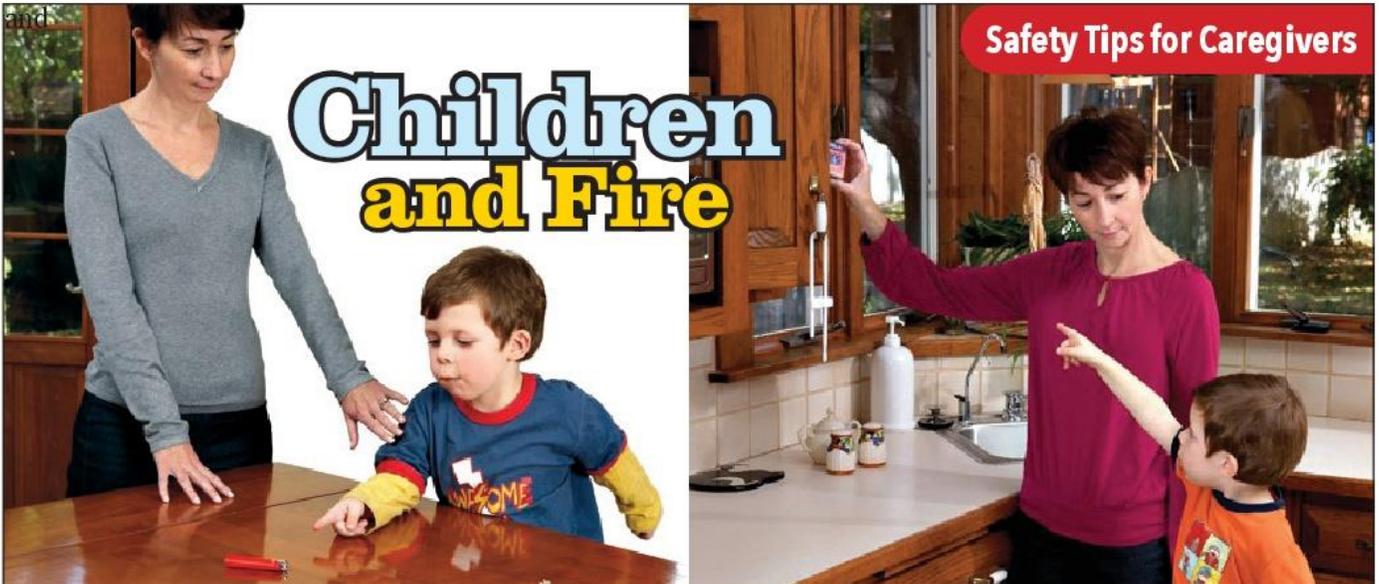


Greenhalgh DG, Bridges P, Coombs E, et al. Instant cup of soup: design flaws increase risk of burns. *Journal of Burn Care and Research*, July–August 2008; 27(8):476-81

www.nfpa.org/education



Your Source for SAFETY Information | NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Safety Tips for Caregivers

Children and Fire

Children “playing” with or starting fires is dangerous and costly. Each year these fires cause hundreds of injuries, millions of dollars in damage, and are most likely to kill young children under the age of 5.

Some children play with fire out of curiosity, boredom, or peer pressure, not realizing its danger. But other children misuse fire because they are struggling with problems or emotions. Without proper intervention and instruction, children who misuse fire will very likely do it again. However, if punishment is the only intervention strategy used, it could actually contribute to the problem. What can you do?

Follow these tips to keep your family safe:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Closely supervise children, making sure that they are kept away from other fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves.
- It is natural for young children to be curious and ask questions about fire, play with fire trucks, or pretend to cook. Use these opportunities to teach them about fire safety.
- Explain that fire moves very fast and can hurt as soon as it touches them. Tell them that this is why matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Teach young children to never touch matches or lighters. They must go tell a grown-up when matches or lighters are found.
- Establish clear rules and consequences about unsupervised and unauthorized uses of fire.
- Be a good example! Always use fire sources — matches, lighters, candles, fireplaces, and campfires — in a safe manner. Never treat them as toys, or children may imitate you.
- Talk with children about what their friends or other children are doing with fire. What are they seeing online in video games, on TV, in movies, and on social media? Teach them specific ways to resist the peer pressure to misuse fire.
- Give praise for showing respect and age-appropriate responsible behavior toward fire.

Important!

Understand that children and fire are a **deadly combination**. If you suspect a child is unusually interested in fire or is setting fires, take immediate action. Follow these safety tips. Contact your local fire department, school, burn center, or counseling agency to get help from specially trained experts.

All children are at risk for using fire unsafely. Many fires happen simply because matches and lighters are left within a child’s reach.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

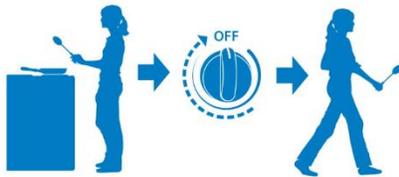
Cook Safely!

Prevent Kitchen Fires



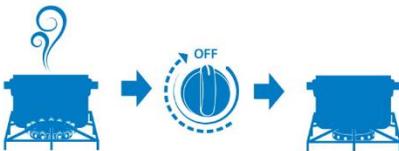
Did you know?

Cooking is the main cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!



✔ **Stand by your pan:**

If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.



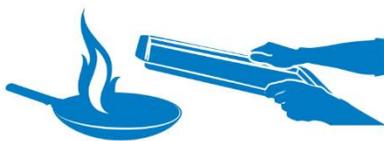
✔ **Watch what you are cooking:**

Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.



✔ **Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove:**

Then no one can bump them or pull them over.



✔ **Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby:**

Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.

For more information and resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov



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 that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

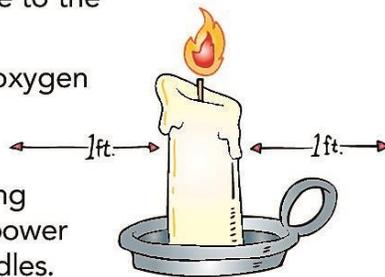
"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ! **December** is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- ! Roughly **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

MARCH 2020

Theme: Change your clock, change your batteries

Week 1 – Smoke alarms, change your clock, change your battery

Week 2 – Fire Safety for Children

Week 3 – Hoarding

Week 4 – Home Escape Plan

National Fire Service History:

- March 17, 1890 - Bldg Collapse, IL (13 FFs Killed)
- March 4, 1908 - School Fire - Ohio (174 deaths)
- March 25, 1911 - Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, NY (145 deaths)
- March 18, 1937 - School Explosion, TX (296 Deaths)
- March 10, 1946 - Strand Theater Fire, MA (13 FFs killed)
- March 26, 2014 - Boston Brownstone Fire (2 FFs killed)

West Virginia Fire Service History:

Woolworth Fire, Charleston, WV March 4, 1949 In total, seven Charleston Firefighters lost their lives in the blaze. Those men are:

- Frank Miller
- Freddie Summers
- James Paul (Jiggs) Little
- T. Frank Sharp
- Richard McCormick
- George Coates
- Emory Pauley



Fifteen additional firefighters were injured, including two who were critically injured: Capt. Charles Clendenin, who was overcome by smoke inhalation, and Carl Wiblin, who suffered severe burns.

Smoke Alarms at Home



SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

REMEMBER

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.

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk

Do you have a person in your life who may be a hoarder? Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered. It may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns.

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.

HOW HOARDING IMPACTS FIRST RESPONDERS

- 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 to a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. 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.
- ✓ 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.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

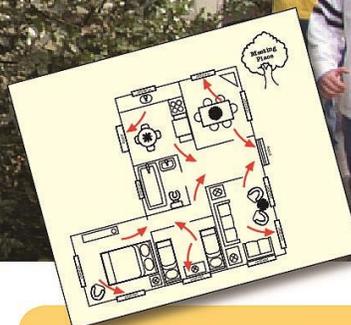
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- »» MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- »» KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- »» HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- »» PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- »» PRACTICE using different ways out.
- »» TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- »» CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- »» If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- »» If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- »» CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

APRIL 2020

Theme: Only you can prevent forest fires

Week 1 – Outdoor Burning

Week 2 – Wildfire Preparedness

Week 3 – Lightning Safety

Week 4 – Pet Fire Safety

National Fire Service History

- April 25, 1854 - NY Bldg Collapse (11 FF's killed)
- April 9, 1894 - Bldg Collapse, WI (6 FF's Killed)
- April 12, 1908 - 2,800 Bldgs Burn, MA (17,000 homeless)
- April 18, 1924 - Chicago Wall Collapse (8 FF's Killed)
- April 20, 1926 - Milwaukee Sawdust Explosion (6 FF's Killed)
- April 21, 1930 - Ohio Penitentiary fire (322 deaths)
- April 22, 1940 - MS Rhythm Nightclub Fire (200+ deaths)
- April 16, 1947 - Texas Ship & Plant Explosion (27 FF& 39 civilians killed)
- April 4, 1956 - Wall Collapse, NY (6 FF's Killed)
- April 19, 1995 - Oklahoma City Bombing (168 Killed)
- April 17, 2013 - West Fertilizer Company Explosion (4 citizens, 11 FF's killed)

West Virginia Fire Service History

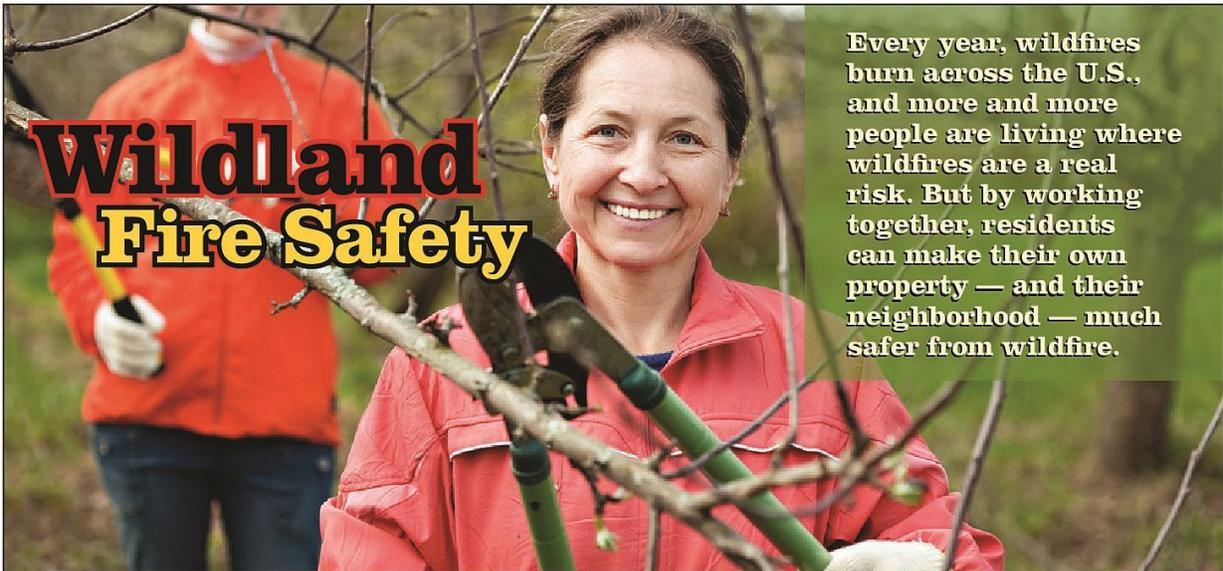
- April 17th, 1924 – the town of Franklin burned, devastating the town's business district.

The Pendleton County seat of Franklin has flourished along the South Branch of the Potomac River since the 1790s. But on the evening of April 17, 1924, it suffered a severe setback when the town's business district was devastated by fire.

The blaze started in the offices of the Pendleton Times newspaper and spread quickly after flames reached several barrels of gas and oil. The fire was difficult to fight because the town's reservoir was dry and, to make matters worse, strong winds fanned the flames and kept the fire raging. It's said the winds carried burning debris two and a half miles downriver, starting smaller blazes. The main fire burned out of control for a couple of hours before the winds shifted, forcing the flames towards the river. Some parts of the town continued to burn into the next day.

By the time the fire had been completely extinguished, virtually all of Franklin's business district had been destroyed. None of the town's approximately 500 residents were killed, but 19 families were left homeless. Damages were estimated at a half million dollars. People in surrounding communities flocked to Franklin to view the ruins. There were so many visitors that town officials became concerned about looting and called in the state police for protection.

Within a couple of days, Franklin rebounded. Tents were put up for shelter and one resident allowed his home to be used for public business. The post office was located in the basement of the home and the Farmers' Bank was set up in the living room. The Franklin Bank conducted business in the parsonage of a local church. The fire of 1924 wrought much destruction in Franklin, but within six years, the town's business section had been completely rebuilt. **(From WVCulture.org)**



Wildland Fire Safety

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. But by working together, residents can make their own property — and their neighborhood — much safer from wildfire.

Action steps for around your home:

- **CLEAR** leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
- **SCREEN** in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- **REMOVE** flammable materials (wood piles, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. **PRUNE** trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. **DISPOSE** of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- **INSPECT** shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair the shingles that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- **COVER** exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves and screen soffit vents using 1/8 mesh metal screening to prevent ember entry.

AND DON'T FORGET...

The more actions a community takes, the more fire adapted it becomes. Learn how you can make a difference in your community. Visit www.fireadapted.org and www.firewise.org for more information.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FACT

- ! There are more than **45 million** homes near or in the wildland.
- ! More than **72,000** U.S. communities are now at risk from wildfire.

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here

Protect Your Home

7 Ways Residents Can Reduce the Risk that their Homes & Property Will Become Fuel for a Wildfire

#1

Clear

Clear off pine needles, dead leaves & anything that can burn from your rooflines, gutters, decks, porches, patios & along fence lines. Falling embers will have nothing to burn.

#3

Screen & Seal

Wind-borne embers can get into homes easily through vents & other openings and burn the home from the inside out. Walk around your house to see what openings you can screen or temporarily seal up.

#5

Trim

Trim back any shrubs or tree branches that come closer than 5 feet to the house and attachments, and any overhanging branches.

#7

Close

If ordered to evacuate, make sure all windows & doors are closed tightly, and seal up any pet doors. Many homes are destroyed by embers entering these openings and burning the house from the inside out.

#2

Store Away

Store away furniture cushions, rattan mats, potted plants & other decorations from decks, porches & patios. These items catch embers and help ignite your home if you leave them outside.

#4

Rake

Embers landing in mulch that touches your house, deck or fence is a big fire hazard. Rake out any landscaping mulch to at least five feet away.

#6

Remove

Walk around your house and remove anything within 30 feet that could burn, such as woodpiles, spare lumber, vehicles and boats - anything that can act as a large fuel source.



NFPA has many more tips and safety recommendations on its websites, including www.firewise.org.

Lightning Safety

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

Safety Tips

Outdoor Safety

- **If you can hear** thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away.
- **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. Stay off porches.
- **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 a person is struck** by lightning, call **9-1-1**. Get medical help right away.

Indoor Safety

Turn off computers. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other things that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. You **can use** a cell or cordless phone.

Do not wash your hands, bathe, shower, do laundry, or wash dishes.



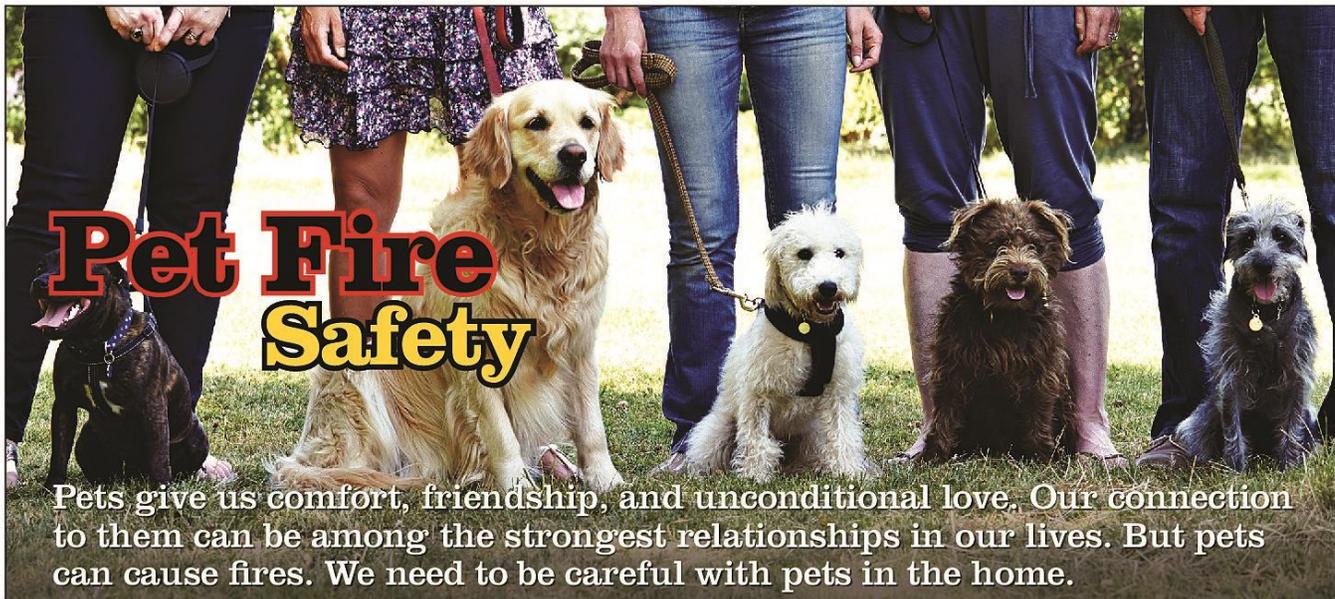
FAST FACTS

Lightning may strike as far as **10 miles** from any rain.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo



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.

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 (1 meter) 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.

SMOKE ALARMS

- 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.

Pets and Wildfires

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.



FACT

Pets or wild animals have a part in starting about 750 home fires per year. These involve cooking equipment, fireplaces and chimneys, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and candles.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

MAY 2020

Theme: Arson Awareness

Week 1 – Arson Awareness

Week 2 – Sky Lantern Information

Week 3 – Building Safety

Week 4 – Hotel/Motel Safety

Events:

National Arson Awareness Week

WV Public Safety Expo May 8th-11th

National Fire Service History

- May 4, 1901 - Jacksonville FL Conflagration (1,700 buildings burn)
- May 6, 1925 - Atlanta Floor Collapse (6 FF's Deaths)
- May 28, 1977 - KY Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire (165 deaths)



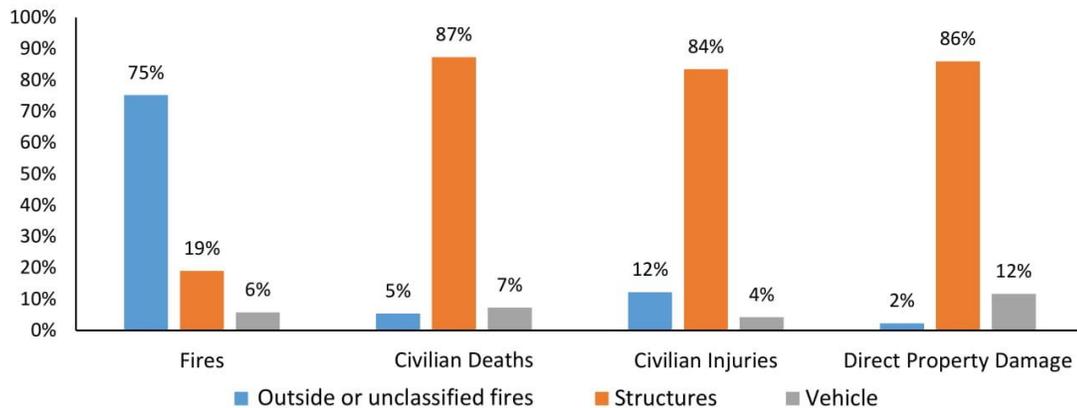
FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

Intentional Fires Fact Sheet

Each year between 2010 and 2014, an estimated 261,330 intentionally set fires were reported to fire departments in the United States. The fires included 196,480 outside or unclassified fires, 49,690 structure fires, and 13,160 vehicle fires. Losses resulting from these fires included:

- 440 civilian deaths
- 1,310 civilian injuries
- \$1 billion in direct property damage

Intentional Fires and Losses by Incident Type, 2010–2014 Annual Averages



75% of intentional fires occurred outside.

Although 19% of intentional fires involved structures, these fires accounted for 87% of civilian deaths, 84% of civilian injuries, and 86% of direct property damage resulting from intentional fires.

6% of intentional fires involved vehicles. These fires accounted for 12% of the direct property damage.

What is an "intentional" fire?

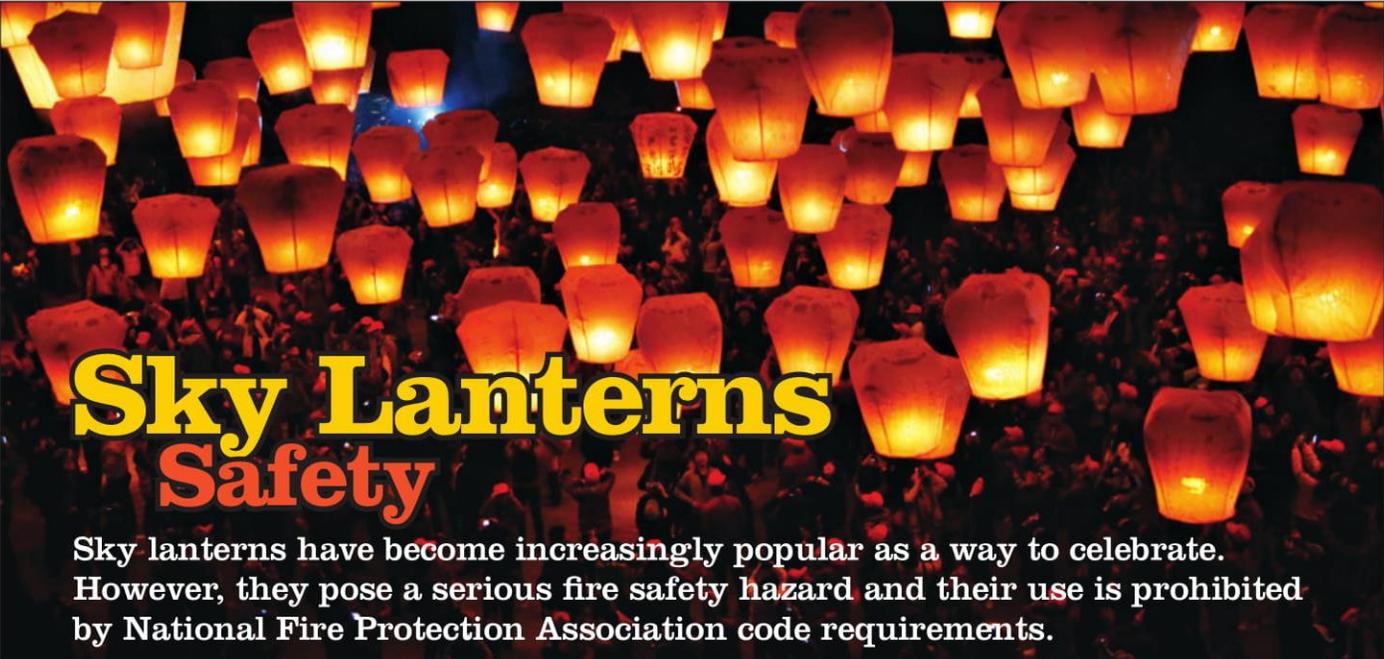
The fire statistics in this analysis use detailed data from the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting Systems (NFIRS). The definition of "intentional" in NFIRS 5.0 specifically includes "deliberate misuse of heat source or a fire of an incendiary nature." Additional resources can be found at www.nfpa.org/arson.

Source: NFPA Research: www.nfpa.org/research
Contact information: 617-984-7451 or research@nfpa.org



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

This information is provided to help advance fire safety. It does not represent the official position of the NFPA or its Technical Committees. The NFPA disclaims liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use of this information.



Sky Lanterns Safety

Sky lanterns have become increasingly popular as a way to celebrate. However, they pose a serious fire safety hazard and their use is prohibited by National Fire Protection Association code requirements.

- » The lanterns are made of oiled rice paper with a bamboo frame, materials that can easily catch on fire.
- » A candle or wax fuel cell is used with the device.
- » The lit flame heats the inside of the lantern, causing it to rise into the air.
- » Once lit and airborne, it can travel over a mile in distance.
- » Wind can affect the sky lantern, blowing the sides, forcing the hot air out and sending the flaming lantern back to the ground.
- » These lanterns have the potential to cause fires.
- » A flaming lantern can drop onto a rooftop, field, trees or power lines before the flame is fully extinguished.
- » A destructive fire can result when a flaming lantern reaches the ground during dry conditions.
- » Sky lanterns should not be used under any circumstances.

Recent fires

A **sky lantern** landed on the canopy of a country club, igniting the canopy.

Two sky lanterns landed in forested land impacting valuable wildfire firefighting resources.

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Fire Alarms in Apartment Buildings

Large apartment buildings are built to keep people safe from fire. Fire alarm systems detect smoke and fire. They will warn residents of danger.

- » 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

Know the locations of all exit stairs from your floor. If the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke, you may have to use another exit.



If the fire alarm sounds feel the door before opening. If it is hot, use another way out. If it is cool, use this exit to leave.

Close all doors behind you as you leave. Take the key to your apartment in case you are not able to get out of the building.

If fire or smoke is blocking all exits, return or stay in your apartment. Keep the door closed. Cover cracks around the door with towels or tape. Call **9-1-1** and let the fire department know you are trapped. Signal from the window by waving a flashlight or light-colored cloth.

Meet with your landlord or building manager to learn about the fire safety features and plans in your building.

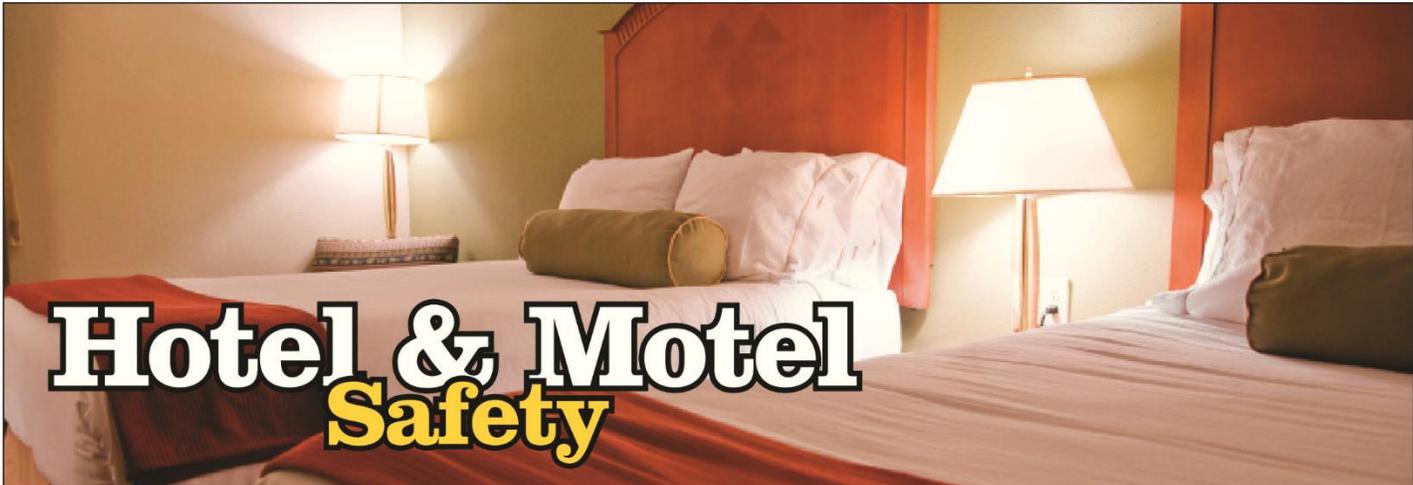


Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



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.

BE SAFE WHEN TRAVELING!

- Choose a hotel/motel that is protected by both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system.
- When you check in, ask the front desk what the fire alarm sounds like.
- When you enter your room, review the escape plan posted in your room.
- Take the time to find the exits and count the number of doors between your room and the exit. Make sure the exits are unlocked. If they are locked, report it to management right away.
- Keep your room key by your bed and take it with you if there is a fire.
- If the alarm sounds, leave right away, 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 You Can't Escape...

SHUT off fans and air conditioners.

STUFF wet towels in the crack around the doors.

CALL the fire department and let them know your location.

WAIT at the window and signal with a flashlight or light colored cloth.

FACTS

- ❗ On average, one of every **13 hotels** or motels reported a structure fire each year.
- ❗ The majority of hotel fire deaths result from fires that started in the **bedroom**.
- ❗ **Cooking equipment** is the leading cause of hotel/motel fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here

JUNE 2020

Theme: Fire Safety and Safe Summer Fun

Week 1: Marina/Boating Electrical safety

Week 2: Outdoor Grilling Safety

Week 3: Campfire Safety

Week 4: Fireworks Safety

Events:

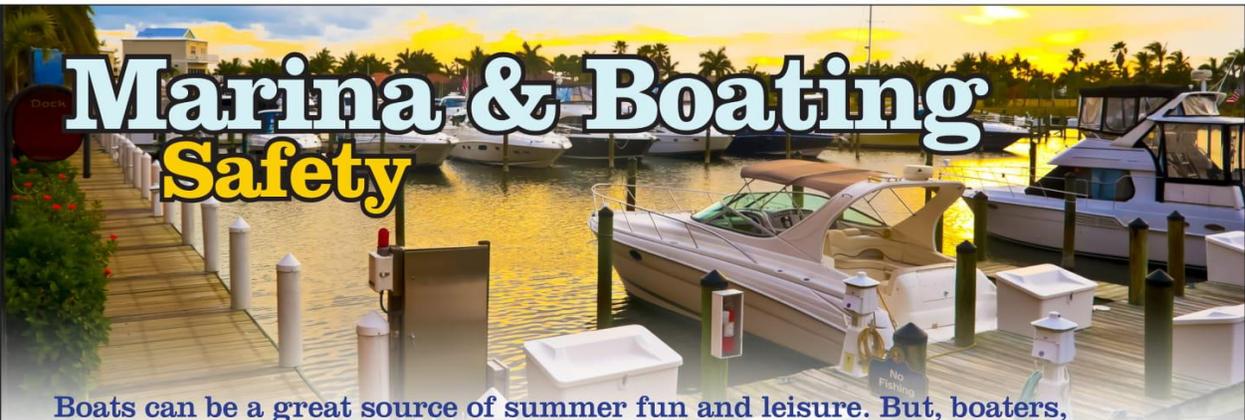
Junior Firefighter Camp

National Fire Service History

- June 11, 1805 - Detroit, MI Destroyed by Conflagration
- June 5, 1853 - Oswego, NY Great Fire
- June 19, 1867 - Philadelphia Wall Collapse (9 FF deaths)
- June 5, 1946 - Chicago LaSalle Hotel Fire (61 deaths)
- June 17, 1972 - Boston Hotel Fire (9 FF's Killed)
- June 7, 1997 - Chelsea, MA Conflagration (8 Alarms)
- June 16, 2003 - Memphis Family Dollar Fire (2 FFs Killed)
- June 18, 2007 - Charleston, SC Super Sofa Fire (9 FFs Killed)
- June 30, 2013 - Arizona Wildfire (19 FFs Killed)

West Virginia Fire Service History:

June 5, 1915: The Old Mill at Rock Springs Park in Chester burned, killing four young people.



Marina & Boating Safety

Boats can be a great source of summer fun and leisure. But, boaters, swimmers, and marina staff must be aware of dangers in and around the water. Electrical hazards and carbon monoxide (CO) bring unique risks to the boating world. Learn to protect people and pets from these dangers.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- » Never allow swimming near the boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat or the marina’s wiring. This can put anyone at risk of electrical shock drownings (ESD).
- » Be sure your boat is well maintained. Have it inspected each year. Ask a qualified marine electrician to do this job.
- » Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCIs) should be installed and tested monthly. Run tests to find out if electrical current is leaking from the boat.
- » Only use cords intended for marine use. Never use household cords near water.
- » Know where your main breakers are on both the boat and the shore power source. This will help you respond quickly in an emergency.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

- » Poorly tuned engines produce more CO. Keep your engine properly maintained. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for service.
- » Proper ventilation for engine and generator exhaust vents must be clear and pipes should be inspected for leaks.
- » Get into fresh air right away and get help if you feel symptoms of CO poisoning. These include headache, fatigue, confusion, dizziness, nausea, or seizures. The symptoms can be similar to seasickness. Assume it is CO exposure until you are sure the boat is safe.
- » Do not swim near the boat’s exhaust vents. CO accumulates there.
- » Install CO alarms inside your boat. Test CO alarms before each trip.
- » Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- » If the CO alarm sounds, move to a fresh air location right away.



KNOW THE RISKS!

Electrical shock drownings can occur when marina electrical systems leak electrical current into the water. Boats can also serve as the source of an electrical leakage. Leakage can cause a shock that can injure, disable, or kill a person.

Carbon Monoxide is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is often called the “invisible killer.” CO is created when fuels such as gasoline, diesel, or propane do not burn fully. CO is also produced when wood or charcoal is burned.

Sources of CO on your boat may include engines, gas generators, and cooking ranges. Space and water heaters can also be sources of CO. CO can collect anywhere in or around a boat. The gas is harmful to both people and to pets.

FACT

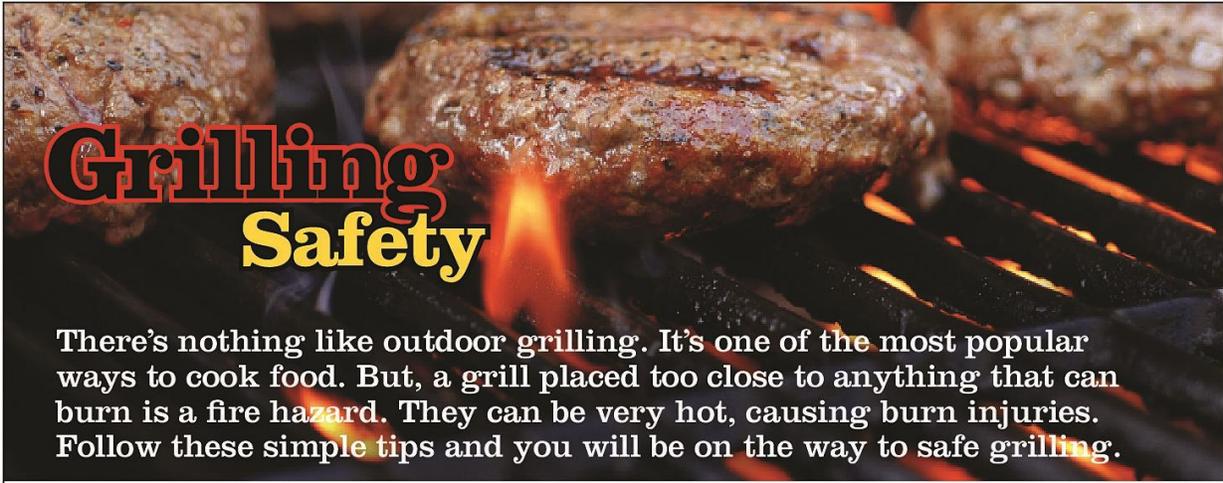
CO can remain in or around your boat at unsafe levels even if the engine has been turned off.

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

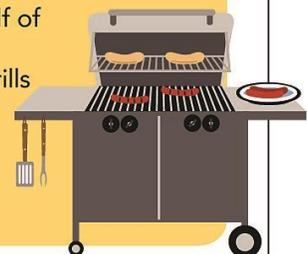
PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the 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. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here

Campfire Safety

Sitting under the stars by a crackling fire has its appeal. It's where stories are told, sing-a-longs happen, and meals are cooked over an open flame. Campfires bring family and friends together. But campfire mishaps can cause injuries. With a few safety tips, you can prevent these accidents.

SAFETY AROUND THE FIRE

- Before setting up a campfire, be sure it is permitted. Check with your local fire department.
- If campfires are permitted, they need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn.
- Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Avoid burning on windy, dry days. It is easier for open burning to spread out of control when it is windy and dry.
- 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.
- Always have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to put out the fire. Make sure to put it completely out before leaving the site.
- 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 right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.



ROAST WITH CARE

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.

FACT

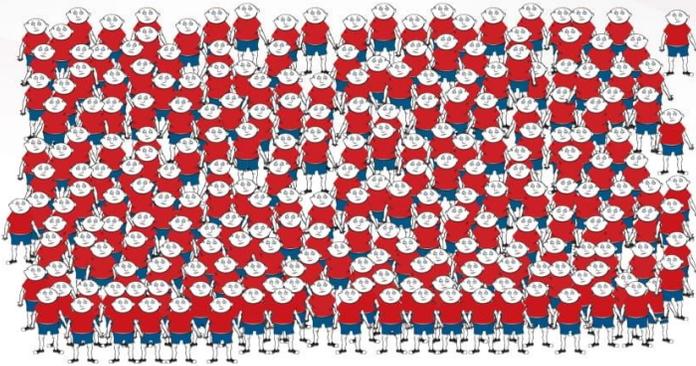
Campfire accidents send thousands of people to emergency rooms with burn injuries every year.



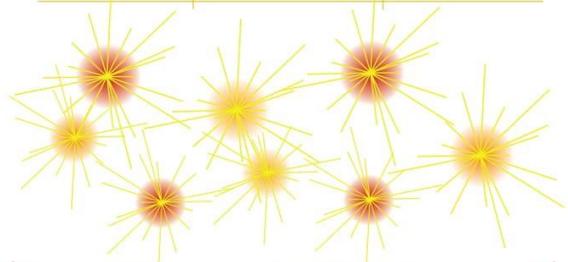
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Fireworks Injuries

280 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.



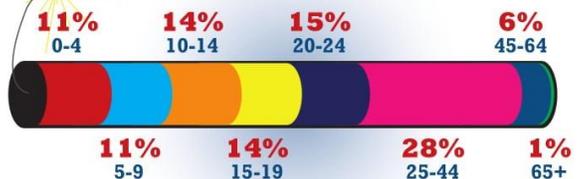
Injuries by Fireworks Type*



Fireworks Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow **children** to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ **Never** try to **re-light** or **pick up** fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ Keep a **bucket of water** or a **garden hose** handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are **legal** in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Light fireworks **one at a time**, then **move back** quickly.
- ★ More Fireworks Safety Tips – www.cpsc.gov/fireworks

Injuries by Age



Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 2017 Fireworks Annual Report



NSN 14-8

JULY 2020

Theme: Youth and Fireworks Safety

Week 1: Kids and Fireworks Safety

Week 2: Escape Planning

Week 3: Pet Safety

Week 4: Matches And Lighters

Events:

National Pet Fire Safety Day – July 15

Fire Marshal's Office 111th Birthday/Anniversary – July 15th

National Fire Service History:

- July 12, 1919 - Philadelphia Bldg Collapse (6 FF Deaths)
- July 6, 1944 - CT Circus Tent Fire (168 Deaths)
- July 29, 1956 - TX Refinery Fire (19 FF's Killed)
- July 5, 1973 - Kingman, AZ Gas Fire (12 FF's Killed)
- July 23, 1984 - IL Refinery Fire (10 FF's Killed)
- July 1, 1988 - Hackensack, NJ Collapse (5 FF's Killed)
- July 6, 1994 - Storm King Mt Wildfire (14 FF's Died)

WV Fire Service History:

- July 23, 2015: Fire destroys historic buildings in Harper's Ferry commercial district, causing millions of dollars in damages. Some of the buildings dated back to before the Civil War.



Fireworks Safety

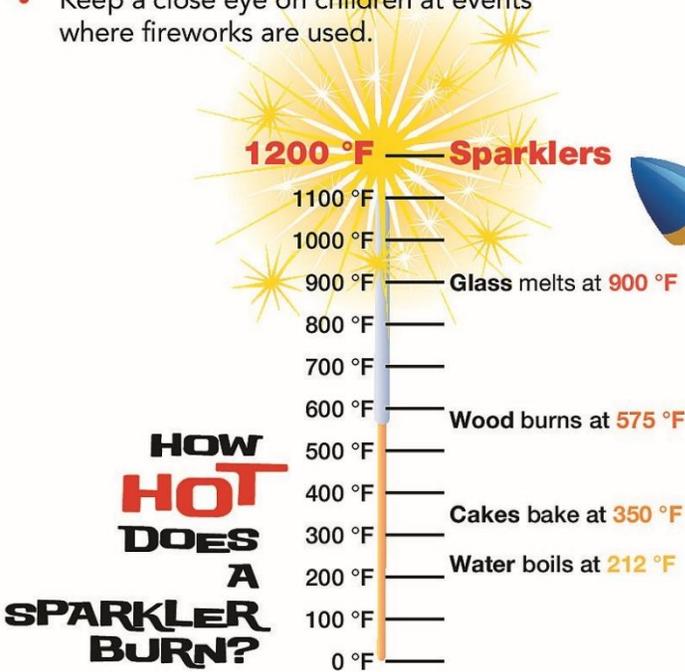
Fireworks are often used to mark special events and holidays. However, they are not safe in the hands of consumers. Fireworks cause thousands of burns and eye injuries each year. People can enjoy fireworks safely if they follow a few simple safety tips:

BE CAREFUL!

- Be safe. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts.
- Do not use consumer fireworks.
- Keep a close eye on children at events where fireworks are used.

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

NFPA is opposed to consumer use of fireworks. This includes sparklers and firecrackers. Even sparklers burn hot enough to cause third-degree burns.



FACTS

- ! Fireworks cause an average of almost 18,500 reported fires per year.
- ! Sparklers account for roughly one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- »» MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- »» KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- »» HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- »» PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- »» PRACTICE using different ways out.
- »» TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- »» CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- »» If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- »» If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- »» CALL the fire department from outside your home.

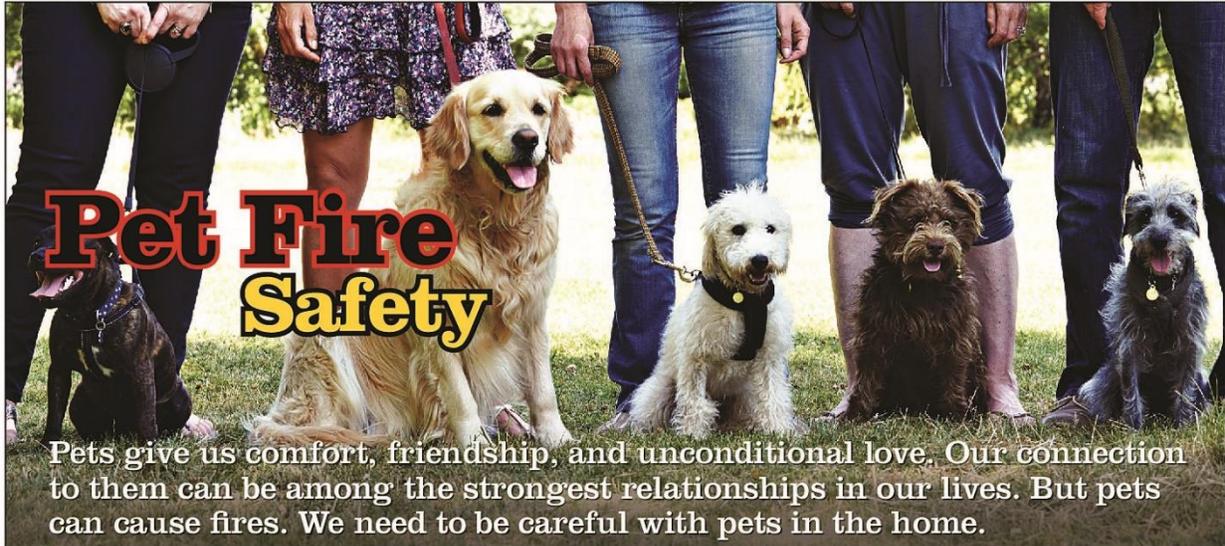
FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



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.

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 (1 meter) 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.

SMOKE ALARMS

- 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.

Pets and Wildfires

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.



FACT

Pets or wild animals have a part in starting about 750 home fires per year. These involve cooking equipment, fireplaces and chimneys, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring, and candles.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo



Children and Fire

Safety Tips for Caregivers

Children “playing” with or starting fires is dangerous and costly. Each year these fires cause hundreds of injuries, millions of dollars in damage, and are most likely to kill young children under the age of 5.

Some children play with fire out of curiosity, boredom, or peer pressure, not realizing its danger. But other children misuse fire because they are struggling with problems or emotions. Without proper intervention and instruction, children who misuse fire will very likely do it again. However, if punishment is the only intervention strategy used, it could actually contribute to the problem. What can you do?

Follow these tips to keep your family safe:

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Closely supervise children, making sure that they are kept away from other fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves.
- It is natural for young children to be curious and ask questions about fire, play with fire trucks, or pretend to cook. Use these opportunities to teach them about fire safety.
- Explain that fire moves very fast and can hurt as soon as it touches them. Tell them that this is why matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Teach young children to never touch matches or lighters. They must go tell a grown-up when matches or lighters are found.
- Establish clear rules and consequences about unsupervised and unauthorized uses of fire.
- Be a good example! Always use fire sources — matches, lighters, candles, fireplaces, and campfires — in a safe manner. Never treat them as toys, or children may imitate you.
- Talk with children about what their friends or other children are doing with fire. What are they seeing online in video games, on TV, in movies, and on social media? Teach them specific ways to resist the peer pressure to misuse fire.
- Give praise for showing respect and age-appropriate responsible behavior toward fire.

Important!

Understand that children and fire are a **deadly combination**. If you suspect a child is unusually interested in fire or is setting fires, take immediate action. Follow these safety tips. Contact your local fire department, school, burn center, or counseling agency to get help from specially trained experts.

All children are at risk for using fire unsafely. Many fires happen simply because matches and lighters are left within a child’s reach.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

AUGUST 2020

Theme: Fire Safety for Seniors and Those with Disabilities

Week 1: Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults

Week 2: Portable Oxygen and Smoking Dangers

Week 3: Home Escape Planning

Week 4: Fire Safety for Those with Disabilities

Events:

State Fire Marshal Annual Fire and Life Safety poster contest begins
Annual West Virginia State Firemen's Association Convention

National Fire Service History:

- August 5, 1897 - Chicago Grain Elevator Explosion (6 FF Deaths)
- August 1, 1932 - NY Basement Explosion (8 FF's Killed)
- August 5, 1949 - MT Wildland Fire (13 FF's Killed)
- August 17, 1975 - PA Refinery Flashover Fire (8 FF deaths)
- August 2, 1978 - NY Roof Collapse (6 FF's Killed)
- August 29, 2005 - Hurricane Katrina (1,700+ deaths)

WV Fire Service History:

- August 8, 2014 - Matoaka downtown burns, causing an estimated \$4 million in damage, destroying four buildings that housed two businesses and several apartments. It started in a former hotel on Barger Street. At one point, emergency workers from 14 agencies were on scene battling the fire and redirecting traffic.



GET READY!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

for Older Adults

Each person's needs and abilities are unique, but with careful planning anyone can prepare for an emergency. A disaster can occur anytime, anywhere, and without warning. Think about how a disaster might affect your individual needs.

Have a Plan

- Plan to make it on your own for at least seven days. You may not have access to a medical facility, pharmacy, or grocery store.
- Think about the resources you use daily and what you would do if they were not available.
- Create your emergency supplies kit.
- Identify local shelters or consider friends and family outside your immediate area with whom you could stay.
- If you have a pet, find out if local shelters or family are willing to accept the pet. If not, plan what you would do with the pet if you need to evacuate.

Create a Support Network

- Talk to family, friends, and others who may be able to help.
- Neighbors helping neighbors is important in an emergency. Make sure you know your neighbors. Introduce yourself and let them know any specific needs you may have.
- Share your emergency plan with everyone in your support network.
- Make sure everyone knows your evacuation plan and where you will go during a disaster.
- Practice your plan with those who have agreed to help you.
- Give an extra key to your home to someone in your support network.

Medications and Medical Supplies

- Make sure medical equipment, such as a cane or wheelchair, is clearly labeled with your name and contact information.
- Keep a list of your medications, dosage, physician, and pharmacy information.

- Be sure to include your eyeglasses, hearing aid and batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen in your emergency supplies kit.
- If you use a battery-powered wheelchair, consider keeping your old un-powered chair for emergency use.

Keep Important Documents Together

- Include copies of important documents in your emergency supplies kit, such as medical records, wills, deeds, social security number, charge and bank account information, and tax records. Keep this information in a place that is secure, yet readily accessible if you need to get it in a hurry.
- Have copies of your medical insurance and Medicare cards available. Include a list of emergency contact numbers.
- If you have any disabilities, especially communication issues, be sure to include a list of them in your emergency information.
- Keep the important documents in a waterproof container.



Medical Oxygen Safety

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 breathe. 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.

SAFETY TIPS

- »» 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.

FACTS

- ! 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.



Post **No Smoking** and **No Open Flames** signs in and outside the home to remind people not to smoke.

Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Home Escape Planning Safety Tips

If a fire breaks out in your home, you have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know how to get outside if there is a fire.

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Visit each room and, if possible, find two ways out. Mark the ways out on the escape plan.
- All windows and doors should open easily and should not be blocked by furniture or clutter. Make sure the escape routes are clear. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working. If you cannot safely reach the smoke alarm, ask for help. Everyone in your home should be able to recognize the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Choose an outside meeting place. It should be in front of and away from your home and should be something permanent, such as a tree or a neighbor's house. Everyone should agree to meet at the meeting place after they escape.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows the fire department's emergency number.
- Assign someone to help any household members who may have difficulty getting out alone.



- Everyone in the home should practice the escape drill together at least twice a year. Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Tell house guests about your fire escape plan.
- Prepare for a real fire. When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside immediately.
- Once you're outside, stay outside. Leave the firefighting to the professionals.
- Remember, get out first and then call for help. Never go back inside until the fire department gives the OK. Things can be replaced—YOU cannot.
- If smoke or fire blocks one of your ways out, use another way out. If you must go through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to escape.

Home 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.

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

SEPTEMBER 2020

Theme: Preparedness

Week 1: Fire Safety for College Students

Week 2: National Preparedness

Week 3: Carbon Monoxide Safety for RVs And Tents

Week 4: Family Emergency Plan

Events:

Governor's Day to Serve Sept. 11th

National Fire Service History:

- September 2, 1888 Baltimore Bldg Collapse (7 FF Deaths)
- September 6, 1896 - MI Opera House Collapse (5 FF Deaths)
- September 20, 1902 - Birmingham Church Fire (115 Deaths)
- September 11, 2001 - Terrorist Attacks (3000+ killed including 343 FF's)

WV Fire Service History:

- September 12, 1907 the Beckley Fire Department was formed by Mayor Dunn and the Common Council.

College Campus Fire Safety

College students living away from home should take a few minutes to make sure they are living in a fire-safe environment. Educating students on what they can do to stay safe during the school year is important and often overlooked.

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 apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least monthly.
- 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 barbecue grill, fire pit, or chimenea.
- Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

Smoking Sense

If you smoke, smoke outside and only where it is permitted. Use sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays. Don't smoke in bed or when you've been drinking or are drowsy.

Candle Care

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.



FACT

- ❗ Fires in dormitories are more common during the evening hours, between 5–11 pm, and on weekends.
- ❗ Roughly six out of seven fires in dormitories are started by cooking.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

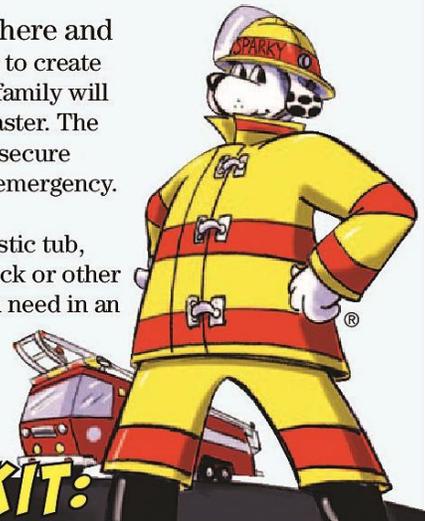
Your Logo



GET READY!

Disasters can happen anywhere and at any time. By taking the time to create an emergency supplies kit, your family will be prepared in the event of a disaster. The kit also helps children feel more secure knowing it is there in case of an emergency.

The supplies can be kept in a plastic tub, small suitcase, trash can, backpack or other container. To learn what else you need in an emergency supplies kit, go to www.ready.gov.



Sparky® is a registered trademark of the NFPA.

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES KIT:

- Water – one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation — store 3-day supply
- Ready-to-eat food, canned juices, comfort/stress foods — at least a 3-day supply
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio and a NOAA weather radio, and extra batteries for both
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Non-prescription drugs such as pain reliever, anti-diarrhea medication, antacid, laxative
- Prescription medications, contact lenses and supplies, denture needs
- Whistle to signal for help
- Infant formula and diapers, if you have an infant
- Water and pet food if you have pets
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to filter the air
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food
- Aluminum foil
- A jacket or coat, hat and gloves
- A complete change of clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirt, and sturdy shoes stored in a waterproof container.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Rain gear
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Paper towels
- Tent
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Signal flare
- Paper, pencil
- Personal hygiene items
- Soap
- Disinfectant and household chlorine bleach
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. Remember to include emergency contact numbers.
- Passport, bank account numbers, credit card account numbers and companies
- Books, games puzzles, portable music device

NOTE: Replace food every six months. Re-think your kit and family needs once a year. Replace batteries and update clothes, etc.

My Personal Pack Checklist

Have children create their personal pack. Have them include things like their favorite book or stuffed animal. These familiar things will help keep them comfortable during an emergency.

- ✓ Change of clothes
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Books
- ✓ Favorite toy
- ✓ Paper, pencils and crayons





Motor home, camper, and recreational vehicle Safety

Motor homes, campers, and recreational vehicles are used for living and traveling. Each year, fires in them cause deaths, injuries, and millions of dollars in damages. Fires can start in the kitchen. They can start in the engine area. Sometimes the fires are electrical. With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent these fires from happening.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms. Make sure they work.
- Stay in the kitchen while you cook. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.
- Refrigerators, furnaces, ovens and stovetops use propane. Check them for leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- Have your propane system inspected to make sure it still works properly.
- Know two ways out. Make sure windows open easily.
- Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan.
- Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping.
- Before setting up a campfire, make sure it is allowed.
- If campfires are allowed, they need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Have your vehicle serviced by a qualified mechanic.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board. Only adults who know how to operate it should use it. Only use it if the fire is small and can be contained. Make sure everyone else is leaving. Make sure someone is calling the fire department.



Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. You cannot see it. You cannot taste it. You cannot smell it. CO poisoning can result from leaks in the exhaust. It can happen because of improper use of appliances. Sometimes CO comes from another vehicle. Make sure you have a working CO alarm.

FACT

When the vehicle is used as a structure, the most common area for these fires to start is the kitchen or cooking area. This is followed by the engine area, running gear, or wheel area. Check for safety inside and outside of the vehicle.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo



GET READY! FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit, or another secure place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Out-of-Town Contact _____ Phone Number _____
Email _____ Phone Number _____

Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____
Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____
Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____
Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____
Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____
Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Date of Birth _____ Important Medical Info _____

Where to go in an emergency. Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces, and apartment buildings should all site-specific emergency plans.

Home

Address _____
Phone Number _____
Neighborhood Meeting Place _____
Regional Meeting Place _____

Work

Address _____
Phone Number _____
Evacuation Location _____

School

Address _____
Phone Number _____
Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent

Address _____
Phone Number _____
Evacuation Location _____

School

Address _____
Phone Number _____
Evacuation Location _____

Other place you frequent

Address _____
Phone Number _____
Evacuation Location _____

Work

Address _____
Phone Number _____
Evacuation Location _____

Pet Information

Name _____
Description _____
License # _____

| Important Information | Name | Phone # | Policy# |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| Doctor(s) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Other | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Pharmacist | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Medical Insurance | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Homeowners/Rental Insurance | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Dial 911 for emergencies | | Police Non-Emergency Phone Number _____ | |

OCTOBER 2020

Theme: Fire Prevention Month

Week 1: Fire Safety Importance

Week 2: National Fire Prevention Week

Week 3: "Get Low, Get Out"

Week 4: Halloween Safety

Events:

Fire Prevention Week Oct. 4th-10th

National Fire Service History:

- October 19, 1857 – Chicago Building Collapse (10 firefighters killed)
- October 8-9, 1871 – Great Chicago Fire (300 deaths)
- October 8, 1871 – Great Peshtigo Fire (1152 deaths)
- October 28, 1954 – PA Chemical Tank Explosion (12 firefighters killed)
- October 26, 1962 – New York Building Collapse (6 firefighters killed)
- October 17, 1966 – New York Mercantile Building Fire (12 firefighters killed)

WV Fire Service History:

- Oct. 3, 1935: A patient at Weston State Hospital started a fire in the main building that destroyed six men's wards and caused a cupola to fall through the roof. The building was repaired, and the hospital remained in service for nearly 60 more years



**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**

LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Fire Safety Checklist

LOOK for places fire could start

You don't have to be a super sleuth to protect yourself and others from fire. Take a good look around your home for fire dangers and address the problems.

Kitchen

- Anything that can catch fire is kept away from the stovetop.
- Children are kept 3 feet (1 metre) away from the stove and areas where hot food or drink are being prepared.
- Pets are kept off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto burners.
- Food that is simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling is being checked on by someone in the home.

Heaters

- Anything that can burn is kept at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from heating equipment.
- Children are kept 3 feet (1 metre) away from open fires and space heaters.
- Heating equipment and chimneys are cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Portable heaters are turned off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- The fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying around the room.

Electricity

- All electrical work is done by a qualified electrician.
- Only one heat-producing appliance is plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Extension cords are not used.
- Electrical cords are checked to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets.

LISTEN for the sound of the alarm

A working smoke alarm will clue you in that you need to escape. Fire moves fast. You could have only minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

- Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Go to your outside meeting place. Call **9-1-1** or the fire department.
- Never go back inside for people, pets or things.

LEARN two ways out of every room

- Draw a map of each level of the home, showing all doors, windows and two ways out of every room.
- Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.
- Practice day and nighttime home fire drills. Share your home escape plans with guests.
- If you live in a high-rise or condo, talk to the building manager about the evacuation plans.
- If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke on your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the doors and cover the vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape. Call **9-1-1** or the fire department.





It's **FIRE** Prevention Week

About Fire Prevention Week

Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

Conflagration that began on Sunday, October 8, 1871, and burned until early October 10, devastating an expansive swath of the city of Chicago. After the smoke cleared, the extent of the disaster revealed itself: the fire had burned thousands of acres, killing hundreds of people and causing millions of dollars in damage. The city rebuilt quickly, its population increasing from 324,000 in 1871 to 500,000 by 1880.

\$200 MILLION
IN DAMAGE

\$3.77 billion
in 2016

\$200 million
in 1871

300 FATALITIES
(estimated)

↑ = 5 people

17,450 BUILDINGS DESTROYED

🏠 = 1,000 buildings

100,000 PEOPLE LEFT HOMELESS

31%

STARTED BY (THEORIES)

- vandals
- milk thieves
- spontaneous combustion
- drunken neighbor
- the O'Learys' legendary cow

FUELED BY

- months without rain
- strong southwest wind
- congested poor neighborhoods
- wooden buildings, streets, sidewalks
- technical and human errors in alarm system

STOPPED BY

- rainfall
- Lake Michigan
- stretches of unbuilt lots
- gunpowder explosions

REBUILT BY
talented architects who were drawn by postfire rebuilding opportunities:

Louis Sullivan *Dankmar Adler* *John Wellborn Root*
Daniel H. Burnham *William Holabird* *William Le Baron Jenney*

THE BURNT DISTRICT

2,124 acres burned

Map source: The Newberry Library

A Where the great fire began: De Koven St. barn of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. Current location of the Chicago Fire Department training academy.

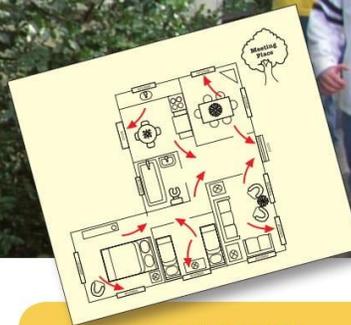
B Area burned by the October 7 fire, which had exhausted firefighters and damaged equipment.

The 2nd star from the left on the Chicago flag represents the Great Chicago Fire.

© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- »» MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- »» KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- »» HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- »» PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- »» PRACTICE using different ways out.
- »» TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- »» CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- »» If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- »» If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- »» CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA.

HALLOWEEN 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.

Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in **900** reported home fires each year. Two of every five of these fires were started by a candle.

Name of Organization

Contact Information



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

NOVEMBER 2020

Theme: Cooking Fire Safety

Week 1: Carbon Monoxide Hazards

Week 2: Electrical Hazards

Week 3: Cooking Safety: Turkey Fryers

Week 4: Home Heating

National Fire Service History:

- November 9, 1872 - Great Boston Fire (9 FF's Killed)
- November 15, 1942 - Boston Wall Collapse (6 FF's Killed)
- November 28, 1942 - Coconut Grove Nightclub Fire (492 deaths) Boston
- November 21, 1980 - MGM Grand Hotel Fire (85 deaths)
- November 29, 1988 - Kansas City Trailer Explosion (6 FF's Killed)

WV Fire Service History:

- On November 19, 1909, the Lincoln County Courthouse in Hamlin burned to the ground. While devastating fires were fairly commonplace in the early 20th century, it has been widely speculated that the Lincoln County Courthouse was an act of arson.
- On November 20, 1907, fire destroyed much of the business section of Oceana.
- On Nov. 26, 1952, a ward building at Huntington State Hospital, now Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital, caught fire, killing 17 people.

Carbon Monoxide Safety



Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT



Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

- ❗ A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ❗ In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffeemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.



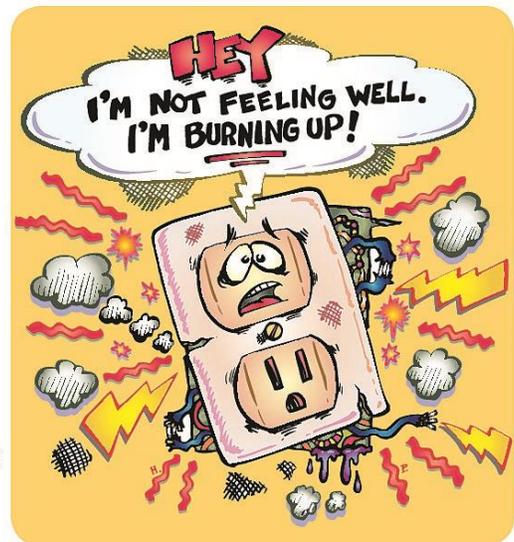
SAFETY TIPS

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified private inspector or in accordance with local requirements.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, microwave ovens, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month according to the manufacturer's recommendations. You do not need a flame to start a fire. Fires can start when heat builds up near things that burn. This can happen when a hot light bulb is near things that burn, such as cloth or paper, or a cord has been placed under a carpet.
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- Use a light bulb with the right number of watts. There should be a sticker that indicates the right number of watts.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

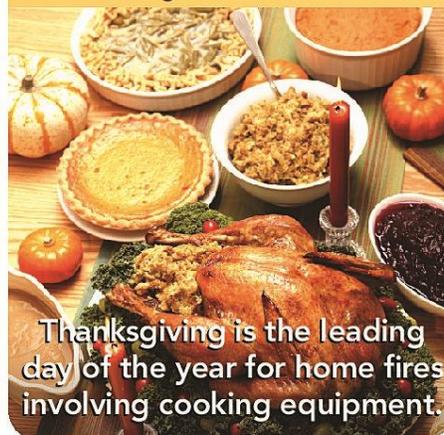
Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.



- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- 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.

Did you know?



Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep **kids out of the kitchen** during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** the kitchen.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

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.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

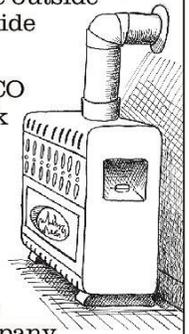
- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

DECEMBER 2020

Theme: Holiday Safety

Week 1: Christmas Tree Safety

Week 2: Holiday Decoration Hazards

Week 3: Holiday Cooking Safety

Week 4: Candle Safety

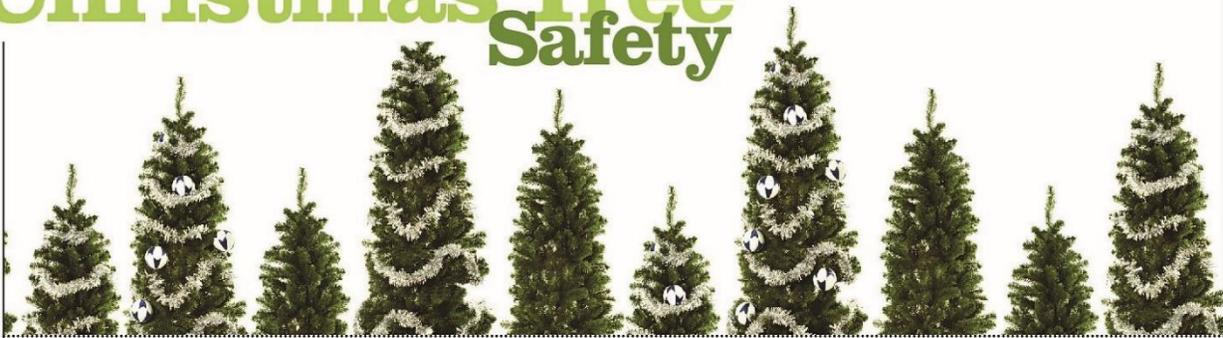
National Fire Service History:

- December 5, 1876 - NY Theater Fire (300 deaths)
- December 30, 1903 - Iroquois Theatre Fire (602 deaths)
- December 22, 1910 - Chicago Stockyard Fire (21 FF's killed)
- December 22, 1910 - PA Leather Factory Fire (13 FF's killed)
- December 7, 1946 - Atlanta Winecoff Hotel Disaster (119 deaths)
- December 1, 1958 - Our Lady of Angels School Fire (95 deaths)
- December 29, 1963 - Roosevelt Hotel Fire (21 guests and 1 FF's killed)
- December 3, 1999 - Cold Storage Warehouse Fire (6 FF's killed)

WV Fire Service History:

- On December 27, 1934, a boiler in a locomotive hauling mine worker at McDunn in Fayette County exploded, resulting in the death of eighteen miners.

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



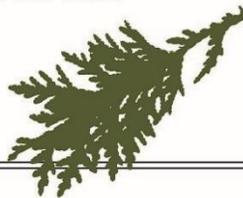
PLACING THE TREE

- 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.
- 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 have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- 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.
- 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.

FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

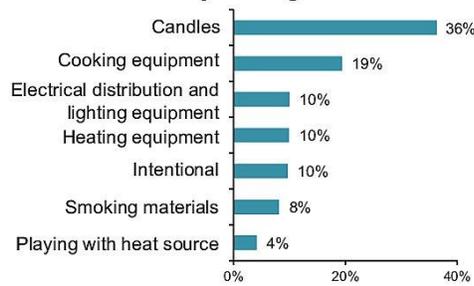


FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 840 home¹ structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees², in 2011–2015. These fires caused an annual average of 2 civilian deaths, 36 civilian fire injuries, and \$11.4 million in direct property damage.

Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations by Leading Causes: 2011–2015



Candles started more than one-third (36%) of home decoration structure fires.

Cooking equipment was involved in one of every five (19%) decoration fires.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 10% of decoration fires, as was heating equipment. Ten percent of decoration fires were intentional.

The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or cooking equipment in two of every five (42%) fires.

One-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Fifteen percent started in the living room, family room, or den.

Things are a little different in December

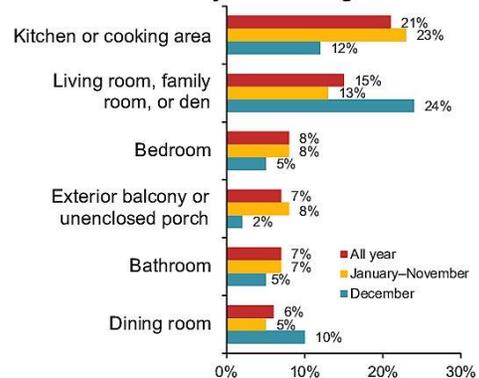
One-fifth (19%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December. Eleven percent occurred in January.

More than half (55%) of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to one-third (32%) from January to November.

In December, one-quarter (24%) of home decoration structure fires started in the living room, family room, or den, compared to 13% the rest of the year.

The percentage of fires starting in the dining room was also twice as high (10%) in December as in January to November (5%).

Home Structure Fires that Began with Decorations by Area of Origin: 2011–2015



¹The term “home” includes one- or two-family homes and apartments or other multi-family housing.

²For information on Christmas tree fires, see NFPA’s [Home Structure Fires Involving Christmas Trees](#) report, 2017.

Source: NFPA Research: www.nfpa.org/research
Contact information: 617-984-7450 or research@nfpa.org



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

This information is provided to help advance fire safety. It does not represent the official position of the NFPA or its Technical Committees. The NFPA disclaims liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use of this information.

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

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.
- 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.



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.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! **More than a third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Forty-two percent** of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

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 that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

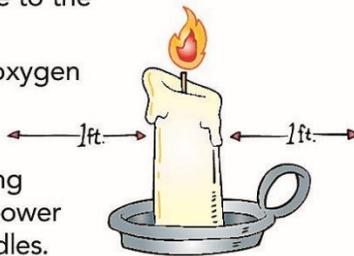
"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ! **December** is the peak time of year for home candle fires.
- ! Roughly **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

