



TURN YOUR ATTENTION TO FIRE PREVENTION

2019

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION GUIDE



TURNYOURATTENTION.COM

History

In June 2014, the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs launched Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention, a statewide campaign to reduce fire fatalities in Alabama. The goals of the campaign are to promote personal responsibility for fire prevention, change behaviors that cause most unintentional fires, and train citizens to avoid serious injury or death if fire occurs. We realize that people living in Alabama have a greater risk of dying in a fire than people in almost any other state, hence the need for the campaign.

In 2019, the Alabama Public Fire and Life Safety Educators group recognized the need to create a manual to help standardize fire and life safety education. Utilizing the Georgia Unified Risk Reduction Manual, this manual was adapted and updated to the current format that you see now. Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention is endorsed by the Alabama Fire Marshal's Office, Alabama Fire Marshal Association, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Fire Chiefs Associations of Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Special thanks

This manual was developed by representatives of the Alabama Public Fire and Life Safety Educators, Alabama Fire College, Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Marshal's Association of Alabama, Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs, Professional Fire Fighters of Alabama, and the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, and with assistance from the National Fire Protection Association.



Many of the resources in the manual are provided by the National Fire Protection Association.

In this guide:

Introduction to Guide

- 1 Goals of the Alabama CRR Guide
- 1 How to Use the Guide
- 1 Community Risk Reduction
- 2 General Public Education Tips
- 2 Understanding the Impact of Fire and Life Safety Messages on Children
- 2 Station Tours
- 3 Smoke Alarm Blitz

Age appropriate curriculum guide

- 6 Ages 3-5
- 7 Ages 6-8
- 8 Ages 9-11
- 9 Ages 12-15

Alabama Standards Relating to Fire/Emergency Services

- 11 Introduction
- 11 Kindergarten
- 12 First Grade
- 13 Second Grade
- 14 Third Grade
- 15 Fourth Grade
- 16 Fifth Grade
- 18 Sixth Grade
- 20 Seventh Grade
- 21 Eighth Grade
- 24 High School Grades

Weekly Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction

Messaging

- 28 **January – “Stay Warm, Stay Safe”**
 - Carbon Monoxide Hazards
 - Fire & Fall Safety for Older Adults
 - Manufactured Home Safety
 - Vehicle Safety
- 35 **February – “Burn Awareness and Prevention”**
 - Preventing Scalds and Burns
 - Kitchen Fire Safety
 - Candle Safety
 - Chicken Coop Safety
- 40 **March – “Spring Into Fire Safety”**
 - Smoke Alarms/9-volt Battery Safety
 - Apartment and Multifamily Dwellings
 - Medical Oxygen and Fire
 - Floods

- 45 **April – “Be Firewise Outdoors”**
 - Outdoor Burning
 - Wildfire - Are You Prepared?
 - Lightning Safety
 - Electrical Safety
- 50 **May – “Gearing up for Summer Safety”**
 - Arson Awareness
 - Bicycle Safety
 - Hotel/Motel Safety
 - Water, Boating Electrical Safety Around Water
- 57 **June – “Fire Safety and the Great Outdoors”**
 - Outdoor Grilling Safety
 - Camping Safety
 - Matches and Lighters
 - Safety with Fireworks
- 62 **July – “Fire Safety Everyday”**
 - Safety in Places of Public Assembly
 - Stop, Drop, Cover Your Face and Roll
 - Pet Fire Safety
 - Hurricanes
- 65 **August – “Eliminate Hazards in the Home”**
 - Campus Fire Safety
 - Hoarding
 - Portable Fire Extinguishers
 - Fire Safety for People with Disabilities
- 71 **September – “Keeping Your Family Safe”**
 - Babysitting Safety
 - Smoking
 - Child Passenger Safety
 - Safety with Flammable and Combustible Liquids
- 76 **October – Element of a Fire Safe Home”**
 - Safety in the Laundry Room
 - Fire Prevention Week
 - Home Fire Sprinklers
 - Halloween Safety
- 83 **November – “A Fire Safe Thanksgiving”**
 - Barn Safety
 - Home Heating and Space Heater Safety
 - Thanksgiving Fire Safety
 - Prepare for Winter Storms
- 89 **December – “Celebrating a Safe Holiday”**
 - Christmas Tree Safety
 - Winter Holiday Safety
 - Call 9-1-1 for emergencies
 - Close the Door!

Introduction

GOALS OF THE ALABAMA COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION GUIDE:

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

HOW TO USE THE GUIDE

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

Tips:

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

Age Appropriate Curriculum Guide:

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

Alabama Standards relating to Fire/Emergency Services:

Many departments have a difficult time getting into schools due to lack of time in the school's schedule because of the standards they are required to teach. This section breaks down the Alabama Standards and shows how the Fire Service can fit into the curriculum that they teachers are required to teach. It also helps fire departments with creative ideas to engage at all levels of education.

Weekly Fire Prevention and Community Risk Reduction Messaging:

Gives a week by week focused safety message. Each topic (week) is self-contained and can be used for public presentations and education at any time of the year. In the *Turn Your Attention to Fire Prevention* Resource guide, there are ready made social media posts, infographics and pictures to aid in educational efforts.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) integrates emergency response with prevention. CRR involves identifying and prioritizing risks, selecting and implementing strategies, monitoring and evaluating activities, and involving community partners, all in an effort to better protect residents and firefighters.



5 E's of Community Risk Reduction

"In the Fire Service, we often speak of the 5 E's of Community Risk Reduction. The 5 E's are Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Economic Incentives/Disincentives, and Emergency Response. These 5 E's form the foundation by which we plan, establish, and measure our CRR activities and programs." (www.virtualcrr.com).

This manual covers the Education portion of the model.

GENERAL PUBLIC EDUCATION TIPS

It is our goal that firefighters across the state use every visit or tour as an “educational window of opportunity,” and make it fun and enjoyable for all involved. Remember that the kids look up to you as a role model so have fun but remember to be sincere and age appropriate. Let them see you as a real person who can relate to them.

Even though the group may consist of children, don't forget the adults. They are just as curious about the fire service as the kids. This is an excellent opportunity to “sell” the fire department. You can educate them about the injury prevention, proper use of 9-1-1, level of service provided, trainings attended, and additional public education activities available.

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

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

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY MESSAGES ON CHILDREN, by the NFPA

Overall conclusion and recommendations for safety programming:

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

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

FIRE STATION TOURS

Effective Station Tours = Awareness and Results

All or portions of the programs in the curriculum section can be used by the presenter based on the available time. A good station tour should take between 30-45 minutes, depending on the station and number of participants. This would include time for educational opportunities, as well as showing off apparatus and equipment.

Before station tours

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

During station tours

- Safety around the station is of paramount concern. Make sure that all adults understand what to do should you get an emergency call during the presentation. Children are to be supervised at all times and are the responsibility of the adult group leaders.
- Keep the tours moving, especially with younger kids. They have a short attention span and are easily bored by technical explanations. Remember station tours are not just tours; they are educational opportunities, also. We want to provide prevention education and safety information to children and adults alike at every opportunity, and this will certainly be a captive audience. This is also a good time to promote each individual fire station or the fire department as a whole, as a good community partner.

After the tour

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

SMOKE ALARM BLITZ

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

Three – Two months prior:

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

One month prior:

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

Two weeks prior:

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

One week prior:

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

COMMAND POST MATERIALS NEEDED

folding tables
folding chairs
tents
necessary paperwork*
educational materials
(optional: kids area)
water & snacks
extra pens, clipboards, tape
batteries
info bags
extra trash bags
red home safety survey signs

Two days prior:

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

TEAM MATERIALS NEEDED

radios
vests
captains’ bags
smoke alarms
step ladders
toolboxes

Day of:

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

One-week post-blitz:

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

SAMPLE AGENDA FOR SMOKE ALARM BLITZ

7–7:30am	HQ Arrival – Last min packing Depart to Location	Ice for water, Captains’ bags, radios, misc.
8–8:45am	Set up Command Post (CP) Ensure volunteers sign in and sign waiver Place volunteers on teams	Volunteer Waiver, Sign-In Sheets, Team Assignments
8:45–10am	*Training - Captains/Installers + Scribes Material distribution (see below for specifics)	Radios, vests, bags, alarms, ladders, toolboxes
10am–12pm	First Block of Installations: Educators oversee several teams Some personnel remains at CP, acts as facilitator and runner	
12–1pm	Lunch	
1–3pm	Second Block of Installations As teams finish their lists, return to CP for another list, or go assist other teams Teams are dismissed when all homes have been completed	
3–4pm	Clean Up While teams are still on location, make sure paperwork and captain’s list are turned in to Command, in labeled envelope Break down command	

TEMPLATE: ON-SITE TRAINING AGENDA

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

Age-Appropriate Curriculum Guide

AGES 3-5

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

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

Message:

Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting. It is best to use first names, such as “Firefighter Joe.” Young children do not understand the use of rank, so everyone is a “firefighter”.

- SS7 (K)- Describe roles of helpers and leaders, including school principal, school custodian, volunteers, police officers, and fire and rescue workers
- H4 (1st)- Identify roles and responsibilities of health care professionals within the community
- For this age group always try to use positive messages, if you say things like “Don’t Hide” studies show all they hear is “Hide.” Also, be very cautious asking for questions, you will most likely get stories instead.
- It is suggested that the tour of the engine, ambulance, and other apparatus be left to the end of the tour.

The following points can be covered at any point during tour:

Smoke Alarm Awareness – Point to the one on the ceiling of your station (make sure you have one and it is working!) Briefly explain what it does (smells for smoke all the time) and demonstrate the noise it makes. Stress getting out and staying out if it sounds.

- Adults: Express importance that working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, smoke alarms that don’t have non replaceable batteries, replace batteries at least once a year and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Home Fire Escape – Talk to them about if smoke alarm sounds to “Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go” under smoke and go outside to meeting place they talked about with family.

- H7 (K)- Recognize warning sounds and signs.
- Adults: Express importance of making an escape plan and practicing their home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the home. Practice at night and during the daytime.

Calling 9-1-1 – Talk about when to call this number, describe what is an emergency, and tell them how to call it. Stress that 9-1-1 will ask them where they are and what kind of emergency they are having.

- H8 (K)- List behaviors that promote personal safety

Toys and Tools – Talk to them about the difference between a toy that kids can play with and a tool that adults use (not play with). Remind them to point tools left out to an adult and have adult pick them up. It is good to teach this right before showing them the apparatus because you can say that the fire truck has a lot of tools on them and it is not for kids to play with but for adults to use.

- Apparatus tour – Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance. Keep in mind the age group you are instructing (they don’t care about GPMs, psi, etc.) Let children look inside the apparatus or walk through it (up to each crew.) Always keep safety in mind (yours, as well as theirs.)
- “Friendly Firefighter” – Have a firefighter dress out for the children VERY SLOWLY, while someone explains what each piece of equipment is and what it protects. Again, make sure explanations are age appropriate. Always be aware of the comfort level of the children. If they are getting scared or starting to cry, stop what you are doing, try to make them more comfortable, and proceed if possible. If the group is rather skittish you may want to put on gear but maybe not mask and pack.

AGES 6-8

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

To build on messages that children have started to learn to protect themselves and get them to take the message of fire safety home. Personnel will explain/demonstrate:

- Smoke Alarm Awareness
- Home Fire Escape
- Calling 9-1-1
- Toys and Tools
- Good and Bad Fire
- Will also give station tour/equipment demonstration

Message:

Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting. It is best to use first names, such as "Firefighter Joe."

- H5 (1st)- Identify roles and responsibilities of health care professionals within the community.
- It is suggested that the tour of the engine, ambulance, and other apparatus be left to the end of the tour.

The following points can be covered at any point during tour or presentation:

Smoke Alarm Awareness – Explain what it does (smells for smoke all the time) and why it is important.

- Explain that there should be one outside of every sleeping area and you need to test it monthly. Stress getting out and staying out if it sounds.
- Adults: Express importance that working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, smoke alarms that don't have non-replaceable batteries, replace batteries at least once a year and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Home Fire Escape – Talk to them about what to do if smoke alarm sounds at night:

- Get out of bed and feel the closed door. If hot, find another way out.
- If it is not hot, "Get Down Low and Go, Go, Go" under smoke and get outside to meeting place they talked about with parents.
- Once out, stay out.
- H7 (1st)- Differentiate between safe and unsafe touch.
- Adults: Express importance of practicing their home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- H7 (2nd)- Describe personal behaviors that enhance safety at school, home, and within the community

Calling 9-1-1 – Remember the 4 "W's":

- Who you are, where you are, what's happening, and wait for questions. Stress that they need to know their address.
- H8 (1st)- Demonstrate ways to summon help in an emergency

Matches and Lighters as Tools – Talk to them about the difference between a toy that kids can play with and a tool that adults use (not play with).

- Remind them to point tools left out to an adult and have adult pick them up. It is good to teach this right before showing them the apparatus because you can say that the fire truck has a lot of tools on them and it is not for kids to play with, but for adults to use.
- Good Fire, Bad Fire — Ensure that students understand examples of good fires and bad fires, and that fire is not always bad (i.e. cooking, heating, lighting.) Discuss how good fires can become a bad fire (we don't pay attention, the wrong people using, etc.) Emphasize that fire is a tool.

Apparatus tour – Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance.

- Keep in mind the age group you are instructing (they don't care about GPMs, psi, etc.) Let children look inside the apparatus or walk through it (up to each crew.) Always keep safety in mind (yours, as well as theirs.) They do not need to be climbing on other parts of the apparatus.

- “Friendly Firefighter” – Have a firefighter dress out for the children slowly, while explaining what each piece is and why it is important
- H1 (2nd)- Identify community emergency services

AGES 9-11

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

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

Message:

- Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting. Use of last names is more appropriate at this age along with the use of rank.
- It is suggested that the tour of the engine, ambulance, and other apparatus be left to the end of the tour.

The following points can be covered at any point during tour:

Fire Prevention – Ask students to identify major causes of fires in homes. Stress that most are preventable and are usually caused by human error.

Smoke Alarm Testing and Maintenance – Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half.

- Should be one in every sleeping area, outside each sleeping area and on every level of home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, smoke alarms that don’t have nonreplaceable batteries, replace batteries at least once a year and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Home Fire Escape – Talk about the importance of home fire escape planning and drills. This discussion should include:

- Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all windows and doors. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Go to each room and point to the two ways out.
- Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Go to your outside meeting place.
- After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.
- Adults: Express importance of practicing their fire escape plan at home and teaching your children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them. Make sure they can open windows, remove screens, and unlock doors.

Cooking Safety – Discuss hazards associated with the kitchen (hot water, cooking.) Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Discuss turning pot handles inward and never leaving cooking unattended. Microwave safety is a good topic for this age group.

- Stop, Drop, and Roll – If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out. Discuss reason for not running (flames get bigger because adding oxygen.)
- Review match and lighter safety and calling 9-1-1
- H5 (6th)- Demonstrate steps to take during emergency medical situations

Apparatus tour – Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance. Always keep safety in mind (yours, as well as theirs.) They do not need to be climbing on other parts of the apparatus.

- “Friendly Firefighter” – Have a firefighter dress out for the kids. Quick dress may be more appropriate for this age group. You can also go into more detail about the gear (weight, importance of liners, etc.)

AGES 12-15

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

Objectives:

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

Message:

- Introduce yourself and any other personnel that may be assisting.
- Begin to treat this age group as adults – you will get further this way!

The following topics can be covered at any point during tour:

- Fire Service as a career
- Different jobs within the Fire Service
- Working Hours
- Salary
- Educational Requirements – Stress High School Diploma, College, EMT/Paramedic Training
- Physical aspects of Job
- Benefits

Home Fire Safety:

- Space Heaters: All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Burn treatment: Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
- Cooking: Supervising children while cooking - Discuss turning pot handles inward and never leave cooking unattended.
- Electrical appliances
- Matches and Lighters: Keep lighters and matches up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

Smoke Alarm Installation and Maintenance:

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.

- For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Assume responsibility for these things at home.

Home Fire Escape: Talk about the importance of home fire escape planning and drills. This discussion should include:

- Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all windows and doors. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Go to each room and point to the two ways out.
- Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Go to your outside meeting place.
- After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.

Apparatus tour –

- Discuss the various items on the apparatus, their use and importance.
- “Friendly Firefighter” – Quick dress may be more appropriate for this age group. You can also go into more detail about the gear (weight, importance of liners, etc.)

Alabama Standards Relating to Fire/Emergency Services

The performance standards approved by the Alabama Board of Education provide clear expectations for instruction, assessment, and student work for Alabama teachers. The standards in their entirety can be found at <https://alex.state.al.us>. The performance standards isolate and identify the skills needed to use the knowledge and skills to problem-solve, reason, communicate, and make connections with other information.

They also tell the teacher how to assess the extent to which the student knows the material or can manipulate and apply the information. The fire service can use the standards as an entry into the schools, talk with educators about fitting into their curriculum as a resource where everyone benefits.

The Alabama Standards are broken down into different subjects with fire/emergency services falling most often in Health Education (HE), Science (S), and Social Studies (SS).

Kindergarten

Alabama Standards

- SS6. Differentiate between goods and services.
- SS7. Describe roles of helpers and leaders, including school principal, school custodian, volunteers, police officers, and fire and rescue workers.
- SC10. Ask questions to obtain information about the purpose of weather forecasts in planning for, preparing for, and responding to severe weather.
- H4. Recognize environmental hazards. Examples: oil spill, downed power line
- H7. Recognize warning sounds and signs. Examples: sounds—fire alarm, weather siren/signs—wet floor, railroad crossing
- H8. List behaviors that promote personal safety. Examples: following emergency drill procedures, using caution when approached by strangers, wearing seat belts and safety equipment, looking both ways before crossing the street
- H14. Name substances that are harmful to the body. Examples: tobacco, illegal drugs, alcohol, household cleaning products

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (Kindergarten)

9-1-1

- Identify what would be considered an emergency.
- Dial 9-1-1 in the case of emergency from cell phone or neighbor's house.
- Explain when someone should call 9-1-1.
- Roleplaying with calling 9-1-1 and answering questions appropriately and following directions.

Fire Safety

- Identifies "Good" and "Bad" fires and heat sources.
- Identifies "hot" and "cold" symbols.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- States rule to stay aware from hot objects.
- Demonstrates actions in school exit drills and severe weather.
- Demonstrates telling an adult if he/she sees matches/lighters.
- Demonstrates or illustrates staying away from campfire, trash burning, etc.
- Identifies firefighters and other fire service workers as friends/community helpers.

Child Passenger Safety

- By law use a car seat with harness or booster seat until at least age 8. You need to be in a seat until you're 4'9".
- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat.
- Draw a picture to encourage classmates to use a booster seat or car seat.

1st Grade

Alabama Standards

- H2. Recognize safety instructions on consumer products.
- H3. Name technology resources used to access reliable health information. Examples: telephone, Internet, television, digital video diskette (DVD)
- H8. Demonstrate ways to summon help in an emergency. Examples: dialing 911, contacting trusted and helpful adults

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (1st Grade)

9-1-1

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

Fire Safety

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups, not toys for children.
- If your friends want to start a fire, walk away, and tell an adult.
- Fireworks are hot and dangerous, use only with the help of an adult.
- Remind grown-ups to blow candles out when leaving the room.
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water.
- Encourage parent to conduct a home inspection.
- Describes firefighter as community helper who helps prevent fires and who puts out fires.

Fire Escape Planning

- Demonstrate proper safety procedures to follow when exiting a burning building.
- States steps and rules for school exit drill.
- Make a home fire escape plan.
- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

Child Passenger Safety

- By law use a car seat with harness or booster the child has met the height or weight limit of the child safety protection device and can pass the seat belt test appropriately.
- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat.

Bike Safety

- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
- Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Ride with a buddy.
- Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride. Ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

Poison Safety

Take only medicine from a trusted adult.

2nd Grade

Alabama Standards

- H1. Identify community emergency services. Examples: police and fire departments, emergency medical services (EMS)
- H5. Describe safety products, devices, warning signs, and symbols.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (2nd grade)

Fire Safety

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Explains using cool water to reduce burn injury.
- Explains that smoke and gases from fire can affect thinking.
- Describes benefit of family working together to reduce fire and burn hazards.
- Matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups, not toys for children.
- If your friends want to start a fire, walk away, and tell an adult.
- Remind grown-ups to blow candles out when leaving the room.
- Describes general guidelines for smoke alarm placement (in sleeping rooms, one on each level, and outside bedrooms).
- Understands that fireworks are hot and dangerous, use only with the help of an adult.
- Identifies ways that firefighters are involved in fire suppression and prevention.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

Fire Escape Planning

- States steps and rules for school exit drill.
- Make a home fire escape plan. Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

Cooking Safety

- Only use a microwave with a grownup's permission.
- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.

Child Passenger Safety

- Identify safe ways to ride in a vehicle.
 - By law use a car seat with harness or booster seat until the child has met the height or weight limit of the child safety protection device and can pass the seat belt test appropriately.
 - Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
 - Ride in the back seat.

Bike Safety

- Create a poster showing safety gear used when bicycling.
- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
- Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Ride with a buddy.
- Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride. Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
- Ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
- Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

3rd Grade

Alabama Standards

- SS9. Identify ways to prepare for natural disasters. Examples: constructing houses on stilts in flood-prone areas, buying earthquake and flood insurance, providing hurricane or tornado shelters, establishing emergency evacuation routes.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (3rd grade)

9-1-1

- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
- Never dial 9-1-1 as a prank.
- Describes or demonstrates what to report in an emergency situation.

Fire Safety

- Smoke alarm testing and battery change. Identifies the sound of a smoke alarm and low battery chirp.
- Describes how firestarters can be used safely.
- If your friends want to start a fire, walk away, and tell an adult.
- Identifies fire safety for holidays in each month.
- Remind grown-ups to blow candles out when leaving the room.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

Fire Escape Planning

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Stay where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.

Cooking Safety

- Only use a microwave with a grown up's permission.
- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.

Child Passenger Safety

- By law use a car seat with harness or booster seat until the child has met the height or weight limit of the child safety protection device and can pass the seat belt test appropriately.
- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat.

Bike Safety

- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike. Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Ride with a buddy. Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride, and where you will be riding.
- Ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Look both ways before crossing the street. Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
- Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

4th Grade

Alabama Standards

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

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (4th grade)

Fire Safety

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
- Lists and describes effects of toxic gases in smoke and fire by products.
- Describes types of hazards from discarded cigarettes and other firestarters.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
- Demonstrates reactions to hazardous situations, including removal of fire hazards.
- Identifies safety features in school, home and other buildings.
- Demonstrates resisting peer pressure related to fire, matches and smoking.
- Describes local locations and uses of fire alarm boxes.

Fire Escape Planning

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone.

Water Safety

- Ask a grownup before going into the water.
- Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake.
- Discuss the possible consequences of swimming alone.

Child Passenger Safety

- Pass the 5 Step Test to get out of a booster seat:
 - Can you sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?

- Can your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
- Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
- Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
- Can you stay seated like this for the entire trip?
- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.

Bike Safety

- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
- Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Ride with a buddy. Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride. Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
- Ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops. Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
- Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

5th Grade

Alabama Standards

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

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (5th grade)

9-1-1

Identifies hazard of false alarms, especially relating to wasting resources.

Fire Safety

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
- Explains hazards of heating equipment, including safety considerations such as UL inspection certification and proper placement
- Analyzes safety of alternative heating
- Describes hazards of intentional fires, especially relating to waste and loss of resources and how it impacts the health and safety of others.

Fire Escape Planning

- Evaluates school exit drill
- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.

- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.

Kitchen Safety

- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
- Never leave small children alone in the bathroom or kitchen.
- Demonstrate proper procedures and basic first aid treatment for a choking victim.

Water Safety

- Ask a grownup before going into the water.
- Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake.
- Always swim with a buddy.

Child Passenger Safety

- Pass the 5 Step Test to get out of a booster seat:
 - Can you sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
 - Can your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
 - Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
 - Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
 - Can you stay seated like this for the entire trip?
- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.

Fall Prevention

Pick up your belongings and never leave them on steps.

Bike Safety

- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
- Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Ride with a friend.
- Only ride where your parents have given you permission to ride.
- Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops. Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk, look both ways for cars before crossing.
- Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

Firearm Safety

- If you see a gun; stop, don't touch, leave the area, and tell a grown up.
- Tell an adult if a friend plays with a gun.

Poison Safety

Take only medicine from a trusted adult.

6th Grade

Alabama Standards (General)

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

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (6th grade)

9-1-1

- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
- Prepares timeline in response to emergency sighting and reporting.
- Explains why to report smoke or suspected fire promptly.

Fire Safety (General)

- Describes three types of fire extinguishers.
- Make sure candles are out when leaving the room.
- Develops holiday checklist that applies fire safety rules.
- Examine how environmental dangers such as severe weather or hazardous materials release impact personal health and wellness.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
- For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Fire Escape Planning

- Analyzes prepared maps of other locations to show appropriate alarm placement.
- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.

- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.

Cooking Safety

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert.
- Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
- Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- Stir microwaved foods and beverages well before eating them.
- Never leave small children alone in the kitchen.

Burns

- Classifies six types of burns by causes (contact, UV, chemical, etc.).
- Describes special first aid actions for burns other than contact burns.
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
- Go to your local emergency room, call 9-1-1, or see your doctor if the burn is serious.
- Describes professionals involved in emergency response and burn care.

Water Safety

- Ask a grownup before going into the water
- Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake
- Always swim with a buddy

Child Passenger Safety

- Pass the 5 Step Test to get out of a booster seat:
 - Can you sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
 - Can your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
 - Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
 - Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
 - Can you stay seated like this for the entire trip?
- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.

Bike Safety

- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
- Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Ride with a friend.
- Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
- Ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
- Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

7th Grade

Alabama Standards (General)

- Responsible decision-making regarding fire and burn hazards, including peer pressure related to fire risks.
- Preparation for and reaction to possible emergency situations.
- Describe how immediate health care can promote individual health.
- Describe the importance of seeking health care when experiencing a health issue.
- Predict the risk of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- Identify environmental conditions (e.g., smoke conditions, hazardous material release, and severe weather) that are potentially harmful to personal health.
- Examine a list of local health facilities and health support services in your community.
- Give examples of possible dangers associated with the use of alcohol and other drug use.
- Predict the risk of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- Identify how safety technology can be used to improve personal health.
- Demonstrate how to access a trusted adult who can help someone who may have been injured or poisoned.
- Summarize the importance of wearing protective gear in high-impact activities.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (7th grade)

9-1-1

- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
- Describes how to discourage false alarms

Fire Safety (General)

- Analyzes product labels for fire safety, including flammable or combustible warnings, nonflammable label
- Describes safe practices with fire hazards commonly found in home or outdoors
- Develops and implements home survey instrument
- Make sure candles are out when leaving the room
- Describes alternative behaviors to peer pressure related to firesetting and smoking
- Identifies arson as a crime
- Writes at least five rules for using firestarters
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
- For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Fire Escape Planning

- Organizes an obstructed drill at school or home
- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
- Once outside, do not go back in for anything.

Cooking Safety

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert.
- Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
- Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- Stir microwaved foods and beverages well before eating them.
- Never leave small children alone in the kitchen.
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.

Water Safety

- Ask a grownup before going into the water
- Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake
- Always swim with a buddy

Child Passenger Safety

- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Ride in the back seat until at least 13 years old.

Bike Safety

- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
- Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
- Ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
- Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

8th Grade

Alabama Standards

- S8P2. Students will be familiar with the forms and transformations of energy.
- Basic Fire Science
- Compare and contrast the different forms of energy (heat, light, electricity, mechanical motion, and sound) and their characteristics.
- Describe how heat can be transferred through matter by the collisions of atoms (conduction) or through space (radiation). In a liquid or gas, currents will facilitate the transfer of heat (convection).
- S8P3. Students will investigate relationship between force, mass, and the motion of objects.

- Using Technical Rescue/Ropes Team
- Demonstrate the effect of simple machines (lever, inclined plane, pulley, wedge, screw, and wheel and axle) on work.
- SS8E4. The student will identify revenue sources for, and services provided by state and local governments.
- Basic explanation of taxes and how they support the community
- Trace sources of state revenue such as sales taxes, federal grants, personal income taxes, and property taxes.
- Explain the distribution of state revenue to provide services.
- Evaluate how choices are made given the limited revenues of state and local governments.
- SS8E5. The student will explain personal money management choices in terms of income, spending, credit, saving, and investing.
- Technical aspects of fire hazards and detection
- Fire hazards outside the home
- Describes desire to be safe and to keep others safe
- Investigate the effects stress has on personal health by researching different high stress-related occupations (e.g., ambulance drivers, high-rise construction workers).
- Collect information on injuries that are prevalent in adolescents and list ways they could be avoided.
- Examine the likelihood of injury or illness if engaging in unhealthy behaviors.
- Describe how alcohol use can lead to poor decision-making.
- Show how a peer group can have a negative influence on behaviors.
- Predict the possible outcomes of participating in unhealthy behaviors and compile a list of health services which relate to the outcome.
- Make a list of possible hazards around the community and describe the potential dangers of the hazards.
- Learn standard First Aid skills that could assist with sudden illness or injuries.

Teaching Ideas for Health Educations (8th grade)

9-1-1

- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
- Identifies hazard of false alarms, especially relating to wasting resources

Fire Safety

- Lists at least 10 typical hazards in the workplace, including industrial, retail, and office
- Make sure candles are out when leaving the room
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Describes basic function of sprinklers, including residential fast response sprinklers
- Investigates community laws on fireworks

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button replace batteries at least once a year.
- For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Escape Planning

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.

Cooking Safety

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert.
- Use stove or a cook top only with an adult's supervision.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
- Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.
- Be careful when removing any items from a microwave.
- Stir microwaved foods and beverages well before eating them.
- Never leave small children alone in the kitchen.
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.

Water Safety

- Ask a grownup before going into the water.
- Always wear a life jacket on a boat or near the lake.
- Always swim with a buddy.

Child Passenger Safety

- Buckle up every time you ride in a vehicle.
- Back seat is the safest place to ride.

Bike Safety

- Wear bike helmets and bright colored clothing every time you ride a bike.
- Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Always let your parents know where you'll be riding.
- Ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
- Never start into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end driveway or sidewalk and carefully look both ways for cars before entering the street.

High School

Alabama Standards

- Forensic Science
 - SFS4 Students will evaluate the role of ballistics, tool marks and evidence of arson in forensic investigation.
 - Arson Investigator
 - Recognize the forensic significance of tool marks, footwear and tire impressions in an investigation.
 - Evaluate possible indicators of arson and criminal bombing.
- Economics
 - SSEPF1. The student will apply rational decision making to personal spending and saving choices.
- Fire
 - Explain that people respond to positive and negative incentives in predictable ways.
 - Use a rational decision-making model to select one option over another.
 - SSEPF5. The student will describe how insurance and other risk-management strategies protect against financial loss.
 - Discuss Fire Insurance, Sprinklers, Alarms
 - List various types of insurance such as automobile, health, life, disability, and property.
 - Explain the costs and benefits associated with different types of insurance; include deductibles, premiums, shared liability, and asset protection.
- US History
 - SSUSH2 The student will trace the ways that the economy and society of British North America developed.
 - History of Fire Service, what it looked like and Benjamin Franklin as founder
 - Identify Benjamin Franklin as a symbol of social mobility and individualism.
- Ag Science
 - Forestry and Firewise
- Architecture and Construction
 - Inspections
 - Building Construction and withstanding heat, collapse times,
 - Safety equipment and features
- Environmental Science
 - Describe the effects and potential implications of pollution and resource depletion on the environment at the local and global levels (e.g. air and water pollution, solid waste disposal, depletion of the stratospheric ozone, global warming, and land uses).
- Health Science
 - Public Safety Communications
 - Emergency Medical Responder
 - Patient Care
- Culinary Arts/Food and Nutrition
 - Kitchen Safety
 - Fire Extinguishers
- Health Education
 - Review of fire and burn prevention techniques and emergency actions.
 - Awareness of needs of all age groups
 - Awareness of adult responsibilities to preserve family, property and economy
 - Preparation for maintaining one's own home
 - US history of fire and burn incidents
 - Describes general accident prevention and wellness needs of children, those with disabilities, and senior citizen.
 - Research and rank the ten leading causes of unintentional death and their risk factors.
 - Propose ways to reduce or prevent injuries and health problems.
 - Identify a variety of behaviors that avoid or reduce risks to self and others.

Teaching Ideas for Health Education (High School)

9-1-1

- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone in an emergency.
- Identifies hazard of false alarms, especially relating to wasting resources
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street both day and night.
- Demonstrate how to access a trusted adult who can help someone experiencing a potentially life-threatening health condition (e.g., asthma attack, seizure).

Fire Safety

- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.
- Teach young children to tell a grownup when they find matches or lighters and to never touch matches or lighters.
- Defines terminology relating to fire insurance and home safety.
- Explains effects of business or residential fire on community.
- Describes the economic impact of fires and related casualties in the US.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Describes role of carelessness in fires and burn injuries, including cigarettes, heating and cooking.
- Analyze the consequences of youth firesetting for oneself, for one's family, and for the community.

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Smoke alarms with nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Escape Planning

- Organizes and conducts comprehensive home inspection, including outdoors and nonliving areas.
- Use and evaluate safety techniques to avoid and reduce injury (e.g., earthquakes, fire, flood).
- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
- Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
- Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
- Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.

Candle Safety

- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.
- When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Burning candles can start a fire.
- Avoid using candles in bedrooms, bathrooms, and sleeping areas. Extinguish candles when you leave a room or the home or go to bed.
- Keep children and pets away from burning candles.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms (CO) outside each separate sleeping area, on every level of the home.
- Test carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month and replace them if they fail to respond when tested. The sensors in CO alarms have a limited life.
- If the audible low-battery signal sounds, replace the batteries or replace the device.
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, coal stoves, space heaters, and portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year.

Cooking Safety

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.
- Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.
- Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

Burns

- To prevent scalds, Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit
- Teach children that hot things burn.
- Place objects so they cannot be pulled down or knocked over.
- Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.
- If children are in the home, do not leave the bathroom while the tub is filling.
- Go to your local emergency room, call 9-1-1, or see your doctor if the burn is serious.

Water Safety

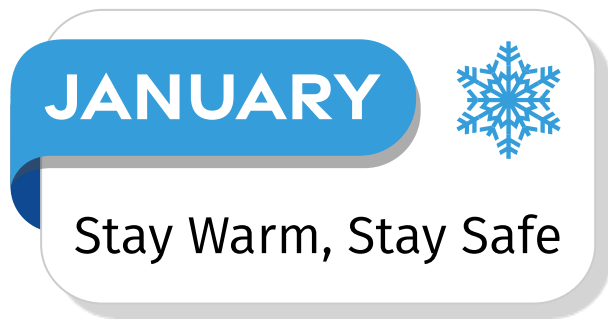
- Carry a personal floatation device for everyone in the watercraft.
- Have children wear their flotation device while riding in the boat.
- Supervise children while swimming and have kids swim with a buddy.
- Do not allow kids to rely upon personal flotation devices to aid them in swimming in waters beyond their capability.
- Never leave a young child alone in the bathtub.
- Drowning is quick and quiet.

Motor Vehicle Safety

- Use the appropriate child safety seat, booster seat or seat belt, when children are passengers in your car. Children underage are required by law to be in a car seat.
- Back seat is the safest place in the car.
- Reinforce the importance of school bus safety rules.
- Debate the laws concerning the use of cell phones while driving a car.
- Argue the use of seatbelts in public transportation and school buses versus private vehicles.
- Write a letter to your classmates encouraging them to avoid distractions while driving.

- **Bike Safety**

- All cyclists should wear bike helmets and bright-colored clothing. Bikes should be equipped with reflectors, horn, reflective tape or decals.
- Teach children to ride on the right-hand side of the road and to use hand signals for turns and stops.
- Teach children to cross the street in the crosswalk, scan for traffic before crossing and obey all traffic signals.
- Teach children to never dart into the street from a sidewalk or driveway. Always stop at the end of the driveway or sidewalk and carefully scan for traffic before entering the street.
- When driving, stop at crosswalk markings to let pedestrians cross safely.



- Week 1** Carbon Monoxide Hazards
- Week 2** Fire and Fall Safety for Older Adults
- Week 3** Manufactured Home Safety
- Week 4** Vehicle Safety

- Events:** New Year's Day
MLK Day of Service
Community Risk Reduction Week (crrweek.org)

WEEK 1: CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARDS

Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

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

Installation of CO Alarms

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

Testing and Replacement

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

Inside the Home

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

Motor Vehicles

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

Appliances

- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.
- Always use barbecue grills outside, away from all doors, windows, vents and other building openings. Grills can produce CO gas. Never use grills inside the home or the garage, even if the doors are open.
- Generally, a minimum of 3 feet (1 meter) provides enough distance between the grill and anything that can burn (deck, railings, walls, for example) so that heat from the grill does not pose an ignition hazard.

Portable Generators

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) away from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 5-foot (1.5 meters) distance from the generator exhaust system to the building.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors, or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- If you are using a portable generator, make sure you have battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup in the home.

If Your Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

- Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors. Make sure everyone is accounted for.
- Call 9-1-1 from the fresh air location. Remain there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.

WEEK 2: FALL AND FIRE SAFETY FOR OLDER ADULTS

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

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

FIRE SAFETY

If you smoke, smoke outside.

- Provide smokers with large, deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Wet cigarette butts and ashes before throwing them out or bury them in sand.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Never smoke if medical oxygen is used in the home.

Give space heaters space.

- Keep them at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn –including you.
- Shut off and unplug heaters when you leave your home or go to bed.
- Always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet, never into an extension cord or a power strip.

Stay in the kitchen when frying, boiling, grilling, or boiling food.

- If you leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the burner and move the pan to a cool burner.
- Use a timer when cooking. If you are cooking on the stovetop and leave the room, take a timer, an oven mitt, or a wooden spoon as a reminder that you have something cooking.
- If a pan of food catches fire, slide a lid over it and turn off the burner.
- Don't cook if you are drowsy from alcohol or medication.
- Do not cook when taking new medication until you know how it will affect you.
- Wear tight-fitting, rolled up, or short sleeves when cooking.
- Use oven mitts to handle hot pans.
- Use lightweight manageable pans.

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

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

Working smoke alarms save lives.

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

Plan and practice your escape from fire and smoke.

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

Know your local emergency number.

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

Plan your escape around your abilities.

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

FALL PREVENTION SAFETY

Exercise regularly to build strength and improve your balance and coordination. Ask your doctor about the best physical exercise for you.

Take your time.

- Get out of chairs slowly.
- Sit a moment before you get out of your bed.
- Stand and get your balance before you walk.
- Be aware of your surroundings.

Keep stairs and walking areas clear.

Remove electrical cords, shoes, clothing, books, magazines, and other items that may be in the way of foot traffic.

Improve the lighting in and outside your home.

- Use nightlights or a flashlight to light the path between your bedroom and the bathroom.
- Turn on the lights before using the stairs.
- See an eye specialist once a year—better vision can help prevent falls.

Use non-slip mats.

- Non-slip mats increase safety in the bathtub and on shower floors.
- Have grab bars installed on the wall next to the bathtub, shower, and toilet.
- Wipe up spilled liquids immediately.

Be aware of uneven surfaces.

- Make sure indoor flooring is safe.
- Use only throw rugs that have rubber, non-skid backing.
- Consider placing non-skid rug pads under rugs.
- Always smooth out wrinkles and folds in carpeting.
- Be aware of uneven sidewalks and pavement outdoors.
- Ask a family member or friend to clear ice and snow from outside stairs and walkways and always use handrails if available.
- Always use handrails if available. Step carefully.

Stairways should be well lit.

- Lighting from both the top and the bottom of stairways is important.
- Have easy-to-grip handrails installed along the full length of both sides of the stairs.

Wear sturdy, well-fitting shoes

Low-heeled shoes with non-slip soles are best. These are safer than high heels, thick-soled athletic shoes, slippers, or stocking feet.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Fire Causes & Risks for Older Adults](#)

[NFPA: Remembering When Program](#)

WEEK 3: MANUFACTURED HOME SAFETY

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

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

The HUD standard has been enhanced over the years and the HUD "Final Rule" for smoke alarms in manufactured homes is largely based upon NFPA 501. Today, new construction of manufactured housing is required to contain, among other provisions: Factory installed hard wired or 10-year battery source, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back-up (including alarms inside or immediately adjacent to all rooms designated as sleeping areas, top of the stairs and on the basement ceiling near the stairs) Provisions for special devices for hearing and visually impaired persons.

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

Despite the federal requirements for factory-installed smoke alarms, 38% of 1999 fires in post-HUD Standard manufactured homes were reported as having no smoke alarms present. Since the homes are required to be sold with installed or readily installable smoke alarms, this suggests a problem with detection devices being removed by occupants.

Safety Tips

- Choose a HUD-certified manufactured home: If you are in the market to purchase or rent a manufactured home, select a home built after 1976 that bears the HUD label certifying compliance with safety standards.
- Keep smoke alarms working: Never remove or disable a smoke alarm. If you experience frequent nuisance alarms, consider relocating the alarm further away from kitchen cooking fumes or bathroom steam. Selecting a photoelectric smoke alarm for the areas nearest kitchens and baths may reduce the number of nuisance alarms experienced. As an alternative, NFPA 501 permits a smoke alarm with a silencing means to be installed if it is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance. Test all smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the "test" button. It is not necessary to use smoke or a real flame to test the smoke alarm's operability, and it is risky to do so. Replace batteries at least once a year, and when the alarm "chirps," signaling low battery power.
- Occasionally dust or lightly vacuum smoke alarms.
- Make sure you have enough smoke alarms: If your older manufactured home does not have smoke alarms in or near every sleeping room and in or near the family/living area(s), immediately install new alarms and fresh batteries to protect these rooms. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Plan your escape: Know ahead of time how you will get out if you have a fire. Develop an escape plan which includes having an alternate exit out of every room. Make sure you can open and get out of windows and doors. All post-HUD Standard manufactured homes are required to provide windows designed for use as secondary escape routes for the bedroom. Familiarize yourself with their operation and don't block access to them. Immediately fix any windows that have been painted or nailed shut, doors that are stubborn or "stuck," and locks that are difficult to operate. Security bars or grates over windows or doors should have quick-release devices installed inside, which allow you to open them in an emergency. Hold a fire drill twice a year to rehearse how you will react if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Electrical: Hire a licensed electrician if you notice flickering lights, frequent blown circuits, or a "hot" smell when using electricity. Use extension cords for temporary convenience, not as a permanent solution. Avoid overloading electrical receptacles (outlets). Electrical cords should not be run under carpets or rugs, as the wires can be damaged by foot traffic, then overheat and ignite the carpet or rug over them. Ground-fault circuit interrupters reduce the risk of electrical shock and should be installed by electricians in kitchens and baths. Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters monitor electric circuits for arcing and should be installed by electricians on bedroom circuits.
- Cooking: Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires in U.S. homes. Supervise older children who cook and stay in the kitchen when heating anything on the stove. Keep cooking surfaces clean and place anything that can burn well

away from the range. Heat oil slowly and know how to slide a lid over a pan if you experience a grease fire. Read more cooking safety tips.

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Fire Safety in Manufactured Homes Tip Sheet](#)

[USFA: Outreach materials and educational programs](#)

WEEK 4: VEHICLE AND FUEL SAFETY

Cars can catch fire for many reasons. Mechanical or electrical issues are the most common cause. A car can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash. If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, respond immediately. Each year, from 2014 to 2016, an estimated 171,500 highway vehicle fires occurred in the United States, resulting in an annual average of 345 deaths; 1,300 injuries; and \$1.1 billion in property loss. These highway vehicle fires accounted for 13 percent of fires responded to by fire departments across the nation.

Facts and Figures

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

What to do if your car is on fire

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

How to prevent a car fire

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

How to prevent Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

- Remove vehicles from the garage right away after starting. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.
- Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor in a garage, even if garage doors are open. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked with snow, ice, or other materials. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.
- If your vehicle is in the garage and if you have an automatic engine starter, make sure your vehicle is off.
- The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.
- Know the danger signs
 - Cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once
 - Oil or fluid leaks
 - Oil cap not on securely
 - Rapid changes in fuel or fluid level, or engine temperature

Service station safety tips

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Topical Fire Report Series: Highway Vehicle Fires \(2014-2016\)](#)

FEBRUARY



Burn Awareness & Prevention

Week 1 Preventing Scalds and Burns

Week 2 Kitchen Fire Safety

Week 3 Candle Safety

Week 4 Chicken Coop Safety

Events: National Burn Awareness Week (1st week)
American Heart Month

WEEK 1: PREVENTING SCALDS AND BURNS

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

Preventing Scalds and Burns in the Kitchen

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

Hot Tap Water and Scald Burns

- Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- For bathing and showering, the temperature of the water should not exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- If you do not install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads, adjust the thermostat setting on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The lower the temperature lowers the risk of scalds and burns.
- If you lower the temperature setting on your water heater, you will need to test the temperature at the faucet. Allow water to run 3-5 minutes. Test the water with a meat, candy or cooking thermometer. If the water is hotter than 120 degree, adjust the temperature of the water heater and wait a full day to allow the temperature in the tank to adjust. Retest and readjust as needed.
- If children are in the home, do not leave the bathroom while the tub is filling.
- Before placing a child in the bath or getting into the tub yourself, test the water.
- Fill the tub or sink by running cool water first and then adding hot water. Turn the hot water off first. Mix the water thoroughly and check the temperature by moving your hand, wrist, and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- When bathing a young child, seat the child facing away from the faucets so the child cannot reach the faucet. Turn the faucet to the "COLD" position.
- Consider installing anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads to prevent scalds. These devices reduce the water flow to a trickle as the water temperature nears 120 degrees. Anti-scald devices are available online and in some hardware stores.

Treatment of Burns

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Scald Prevention Tip Sheet](#)

[American Burn Association](#)

[NFPA Educational Messages 2018 Edition Desk Reference](#)

WEEK 2: KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

How often has the doorbell rung or a child interrupted you while you were cooking causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove – until smoke filled the house? This is an all too often occurrence nationwide. Latest statistics from NFPA say that two out of every five home fires started in the kitchen and more than 166,100 fires a year are related to cooking.

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

Prevent Cooking Fires

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

Watch What You Heat!

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the burner if you leave the kitchen for any reason.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keeping Things That Can Catch Fire Away from Heat Sources
- Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels and curtains—away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and can catch fire if it comes in contact with a gas flame or an electric burner.

Safe Cooking Equipment

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

What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire

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

Keeping Children and Pets Away from the Cooking Area

- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Keep pets off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto the burner.

Electrical Cooking Equipment Safety

- Always use cooking equipment—slow cookers, electric skillets, hot plates, griddles, etc.—that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions and code requirements when installing, using, or cleaning cooking equipment.
- Plug microwave ovens or other cooking appliances directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance—it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- When possible, to prevent an electric stovetop fire, replace standard coil burners with temperature-limiting control electric coils. Make sure the replacement coils are listed by a qualified testing laboratory as compatible with the specific range.
- Check electrical cords or any part of the appliance for cracks, breaks, damage, or overheating. Have a professional repair the appliance or cord as needed or replace the appliance.
- Place cooking equipment where it won’t get bumped or knocked over.

Portable Cooking Equipment Safety

- A slow cooker is designed to be left on while you do other things, even things outside of the home. That said, there are conditions:
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions on where and how to use a slow cooker.
- Keep things that could catch fire away from the slow cooker.
- Inspect the cord to the slow cooker to be sure that it has not been damaged. Do not use any appliance with a damaged cord.
- Make sure the slow cooker is in a place where it won’t get bumped. If the lid gets dislodged, the liquid could boil away, the appliance could overheat, and a fire could occur.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions when using a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet.
- Stay with the hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet when cooking.
- Touching the surface of a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet can burn you. Avoid touching the surface.
- Do not operate a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet with a damaged cord or plug.

- Unplug a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet when not in use and before cleaning. Allow the appliance to cool before cleaning it.
- Do not immerse heat control, cord, or plug of a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet in water or other liquid.

Microwave Ovens

- Place or install the microwave oven at a safe height within easy reach of all users. If possible, the face of the person using the microwave oven should be higher than the front of the microwave oven door to reduce the risk of a scald.
- Always supervise children when they are using the microwave oven.
- Use only microwave-safe cookware (containers or dishes). Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven.
- Do not leave a microwave oven unattended when microwaving popcorn, since the heat buildup can cause fires. Heat the popcorn according to the written instructions.
- Open microwaved food away from the face. Hot steam escaping from a container of microwaved food or the food itself can cause burns.
- Verify the cooking time when using a microwave oven.
- Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven because it heats liquids unevenly. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- If your microwave oven is mounted over your stove, use extra caution to reduce the risk of spills and scalds.
- Avoid leaning over hot burners or pans when putting things in or getting them out of the microwave oven.
- If you have a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately. This will stop the fan, so it won't feed oxygen to the flames. Never open the oven door until the fire is out. If in doubt, call the fire department.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Cooking Safety Infographic \(2016\)](#)

[NFPA: Cooking Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Cooking Fires Causes & Risks](#)

[NFPA Educational Messages 2018 Edition Desk Reference](#)

WEEK 3: CANDLE SAFETY

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

General Candle Safety

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

Candle Use in Home Worship

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Candle Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Candle Fires Causes & Risks](#)

[NFPA: Religious Candles Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA Educational Messages 2018 Edition Desk Reference](#)

WEEK 4: CHICKEN COOP SAFETY

Raising chickens as a hobby is popular. Hobby farmers enjoy raising hens as pets or livestock. Protect people, property, and your flock from the tragedy of fire.

Safe Hay and Bedding Storage: Store baled hay away from livestock. Hay and bedding storage should not be near anything that can burn. Check with your community for safety rules on animal housing facilities. Talk to your local fire department for any fire concerns.

Safety tips

- Make sure that heat lamps are properly secured. This will keep them from being knocked over.
- Keep heat lamps away from anything that can burn.
- Keep space heaters away from anything that can burn.
- Place space heaters on a sturdy surface so they won't be knocked over.
- Brush cobwebs and dust from light fixtures and outlets. Do this regularly.
- Choose light bulbs that have covers. This will protect them from dirt, moisture, and breaking.
- Do not use extension cords in the coop.
- Choose electrical equipment for agricultural or commercial use.
- Be careful with electrically heated poultry waterers. Make sure the cord and plug are properly grounded.
- Check all wiring for damage.
- Have electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Choose outlets and switch boxes designed to keep out dust and water.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Chicken Coop Safety Tip Sheet](#)



Week 1 Smoke Alarms/9-volt Battery Safety

Week 2 Apartment and Multifamily Dwellings

Week 3 Medical Oxygen and Fire

Week 4 Floods

Events: American Red Cross Month
Poison Prevention Week (3rd full week)
St. Patrick's Day

WEEK 1: SMOKE ALARMS AND 9-VOLT BATTERY SAFETY

Fire Deaths – Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

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

Installation

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

People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

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

Battery Replacement

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

Smoke Alarm Replacement

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

Rental Housing

- Alabama adopted NFPA 101 that requires electrically powered smoke alarms outside sleeping areas and in each sleeping room. It also requires a smoke alarm on each floor of the structure
- Be sure smoke alarms are installed in all rental housing. Contact your landlord, property manager, or fire department for help.
- Check with your local fire or building department for information about state and local ordinances on smoke alarm installation and maintenance in rental housing.
- Maintenance of the smoke alarms may be the responsibility of the landlord or the renter, depending on the rental agreement. Maintain the smoke alarm in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

9-Volt Battery Safety

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

Storing 9-Volt Batteries

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

Disposal

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: 9-Volt Battery Safety Tip Sheet](#)

WEEK 2: APARTMENT AND MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS

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

General Tips

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

Fire Alarm System

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

Escape 101

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Fire Alarms in Apartment Buildings Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Safety in living and entertainment spaces \(High-rise buildings\)](#)

[NFPA: High-rise Apartment & Condominium Safety Tip Sheet](#)

WEEK 3: MEDICAL OXYGEN AND FIRE

Portable medical oxygen in the home has grown over the past decade. Medical oxygen adds a higher percentage of oxygen to the air a patient uses to 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.

- Medical oxygen can cause material to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.
- A patient on oxygen should not smoke.
- Never smoke where medical oxygen is used.
- Post “No Smoking” and “No Open Flames” signs inside and outside the home to remind residents and guests not to smoke.
- Keep oxygen cylinders at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices.
- Body oil, hand lotion, and items containing oil and grease can easily burn. Keep oil and grease away from where oxygen is in use.
- Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near the oxygen.
- If medical oxygen or an oxygen tank is used in the home, the amount of oxygen in the air, furniture, clothing, hair, and bedding can increase, making it easier for a fire to spread. This means that there is a higher risk of fires and burns.
- Where medical oxygen is in use, never use a sparking toy, an open flame such as a match or lighter, a fireplace or stove, or any other device fueled by gas, kerosene, wood, or coal.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Oxygen Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Medical Oxygen Fact Sheet](#)

WEEK 4: FLOOD SAFETY

Floods can happen everywhere, making them one of the country’s most common natural disasters. Flooding poses a greater threat in low-lying areas, near water, downstream from dams. Even the smallest streams, creek beds or drains can overflow and create flooding. During periods of heavy rain or extended periods of steady rains, be aware of the possibility of a flood. Flash floods develop quickly—anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. Listen to local weather reports for flooding information.

Before a Flood

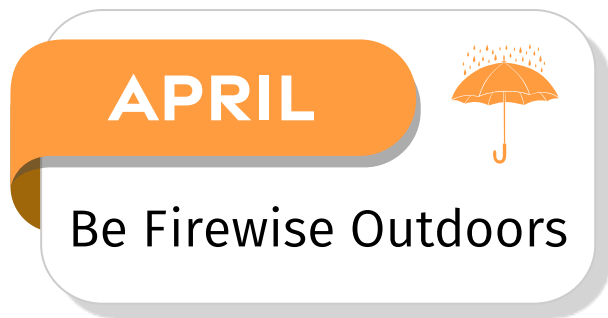
- Check to see if you have flood insurance coverage.
- Raise your furnace, water heater, or electrical panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- Install “check valves” in sewer traps.
- Construct barriers, such as levees, berms, or flood walls, to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds.
- During a flood or flash flood watch, be prepared to evacuate, including fill your car’s gas tank; bring in outside furniture; move valuables to high points in your home; and unplug electrical appliances and move them to high points.
- During a flood warning, evacuate if you are so advised.
- During a flash flood warning, immediately seek higher ground.
- Keep your emergency supplies kit, including water, stored in an easily accessible, waterproof place.

During a Flood

- If time allows, call someone to let them know where you are going, and check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Stay out of flood waters, if possible. Even water only several inches deep can be dangerous. If you have to walk through water, use a stick to check the firmness of the ground ahead of you. Avoid moving water.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If your car becomes surrounded by rising water, get out quickly and move to higher ground.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Floods can happen everywhere, making them one of the country’s most common natural disasters. Flooding poses a greater threat in low-lying areas, near water, downstream from dams. Even the smallest streams, creek beds or drains can overflow and create flooding. During periods of heavy rain or extended periods of steady rains, be aware of the possibility of a flood. Flash floods develop quickly—anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours. Listen to local weather reports for flooding information.

After the Flood

- Do not return home until local authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Do not or drink or cook with your tap water until local authorities say it is safe.
- Avoid floodwaters, which could be contaminated or electrically charged.
- Watch out for areas in which the floodwaters may have receded, leaving weakened roadways.
- Be extra careful when entering buildings that may have hidden structural damage.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewer systems are a serious health hazard.



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

- Events:** Wildfire Safety Awareness Month
National Safe Digging Month
Distracted Driving Awareness Month
National Youth Sports Safety Month

WEEK 1: OUTDOOR BURNING

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

General Tips

- Check with your local fire department or municipality for any restrictions before starting an open-air fire, recreational fire, or outdoor cooking fire. Obtain proper permits, if required. You might not be permitted to do outdoor burning in some municipalities and during some seasons (i.e., during burn bans).
- Closely supervise all outdoor fires. Make sure the fire is out before leaving.
- Supervise children around any outdoor fires, including campfires, fire pits and outdoor fireplaces.
- Permitted open fires, such as bonfires, yard waste fires, trash fires, or debris burning, need to be at least 50 feet (15 meters) from anything that can burn. Permitted recreational fires need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Where outdoor burning is allowed, never burn plastics, construction debris, treated lumber, tires, or pesticide, paint, or aerosol containers. These items contain toxins that can be harmful to people and animals when burned.
- Avoid burning on windy, dry days. Embers from open burning can ignite nearby structures or cause a wildfire.
- Where outdoor burning is allowed, never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- When burning, have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire.

Campfires

- Campfire accidents send thousands of people to emergency rooms with burn injuries every year.
- 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.
- If roasting marshmallows, help young children. Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can cause burns.

Recreational Heating and Lighting

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

Sky lanterns

The use of sky lanterns 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. Once lit and airborne, a sky lantern can travel more than a mile. Wind can affect the sky lantern, blowing the sides, forcing the hot air out and sending the flaming lantern back to the ground. A flaming lantern can drop onto a rooftop, field, trees, or powerlines before the flame is fully extinguished. A destructive fire can result when a flaming lantern reaches the ground during dry conditions.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Camping Fire Safety Tip Sheet](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: Alabama Forestry Commission, P.O. Box 302550, 513 Madison Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130-2550.

WEEK 2: WILDFIRE – ARE YOU PREPARED?

Wildfires across the United States have taken more than 100 lives and cost more than \$25 billion dollars in property losses in just the last two years. That’s why it’s so important to take steps to improve the wildfire safety of your home and community. Every year, wildfires burn across the United States, and a growing number of people are living where wildfires are a real risk. In 2018 more than 58,000 fires burned nearly nine million acres across the U.S. More than 25,000 structures were destroyed, including 18,137 residences and 229 commercial structures. California accounted for the highest number of structures lost in one state due to the number of significant fires, including the Mendocino Complex, Carr, Camp, and Woolsey fires.

Wildfire Prevention

- Recognize when the danger of a wildfire starting and spreading is higher. High fire danger conditions include high winds, low humidity, drought, and elevated temperatures. Local authorities may issue a “red flag warning” to alert you to these conditions.
- Prevent ignitions by being careful with outdoor burning, including campfires, or avoiding any outdoor burning on high fire days. Comply with official burn bans.
- Avoid using lawn equipment on hot, dry, windy days.
- Do not throw out cigarettes into vegetation, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, mulch, leaves, or other similar items—they can easily catch fire.
- Make sure your vehicle’s tail pipe or towing chain does not drag or cause sparks.

Protecting Homes from Wildfires

- Wildfires can spread to homes from blowing embers and flames. Maintain your home and landscape to reduce the chance of embers and flames igniting material on or near the home.
- To prevent home ignitions from wildfire, start with the exterior of your home. Roofs can catch embers. Regularly clear debris from roof valleys and gutters.
- For new homes and home improvements, look for fire-resistant materials whenever possible. Building materials, including the roof, should be listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Remove anything that can burn from around your home, deck, porch, or patio out to a minimum of 5 feet. This includes mulch, dead leaves or pine needles, shrubs or other plants, wood piles, and material for construction projects.
- Any plant material that is 5 to 30 feet from your home should be well-watered and spaced to avoid fire moving from plant to plant. Remove dead material on and underneath landscape plants. Grass and weeds should be mowed to a height of no more than 2 to 3 inches.
- Attic and garage vents should be screened with 1/8-inch metal mesh material, or a fire resistive vent design should be used to prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

Community-wide Wildfire Safety

- If a wildfire ignites a home within a neighborhood, the burning home presents a severe threat to neighboring homes. Encourage neighbors within a wildfire risk to work together to reduce their shared ignition risk.
- A wildfire may make it necessary for neighborhood residents to evacuate. Planning together with the local fire department and law enforcement authorities can save lives.
- To prepare for evacuation because of a wildfire, every household should:
 - Create a plan for evacuation. This should include knowing alternate routes out of the danger area and having prepacked kits with essentials such as medicine, family records, credit cards, a change of clothing and enough food and water for each household member for up to 72 hours.
 - Create a family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation.
 - Prepare a plan for the care of pets and other animals.
 - Sign up for wildfire alerts. Get alerts when a wildfire is reported in your chosen ZIP code or within 30 miles of you.
 - Take steps to protect family, friends, or neighbors who have disabilities. People with disabilities sometimes require assistance and additional lead time in order to prepare for a disaster.
- Stay aware of local fire conditions and, if needed, be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. When told to evacuate, go promptly. If you feel unsafe, do not wait for an evacuation order — leave immediately. Do not return home until directed by emergency personnel.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Firewise: How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfires](#)

[NFPA: Wildfire Causes & Risks](#)

[NFPA: National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: Alabama Forestry Commission, P.O. Box 302550, 513 Madison Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130-2550

WEEK 3: LIGHTNING SAFETY

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

Indoor Safety During a Lightning Storm

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

Outdoor Safety During a Lightning Storm

- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning.

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Lightning Safety Tip Sheet](#)

WEEK 4: ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

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

Inside the Home

- Electrical work should be done only by a qualified electrician. Some communities require that a person doing electrical work have a license. Find out about the laws in your area.
- Have your home electrical system inspected by a qualified private inspector or in accordance with local requirements when buying, selling, or renovating a home.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn, including furniture, bedding, curtains, clothing, and flammable or combustible gases and liquids.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips often, find out why and get the problem corrected before turning the breaker back on or replacing the fuse. Have a qualified electrician inspect and fix it.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles where needed. Tamper resistant receptacles are required for new and replacement receptacles inside your home.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, microwaves etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord with a major appliance—it can easily overheat and start a fire.
- Small appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Window air conditioners should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Many manufacturers of room air conditioners prohibit the use of extension cords. If the manufacturer's instructions allow extension cords, follow the instructions for the proper type.
- Buy only appliances that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Check electrical cords often. Replace cracked, damaged, and loose electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched by furniture, under rugs and carpets, or across doorways.
- Use only surge protectors or power strips that have internal overload protection. Use surge protectors or power strips that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician determine if additional circuits or wall outlets are needed.
- Replace wall outlets if plugs do not fit snugly or the wall outlet does not accept plugs with one blade larger than the other.
- All wall outlets and switches should be covered with wall plates to prevent shocks.
- Call a qualified electrician if you have any of the following:
 - recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers

- a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- discolored or warm wall outlets or switches
- a burning smell or rubbery odor coming from an appliance
- flickering lights
- sparks from a wall outlet
- cracked or broken wall outlets
- Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Have a qualified electrician install AFCIs in your home.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off electricity when it becomes a shock hazard. Make sure GFCIs are installed in bathrooms, basements, garages, outdoors, at kitchen counters, and in other locations in the home where electricity is near water.
- Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

Outside the Home

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Top Fire Causes \(Electrical\)](#)

MAY



Gearing Up for Summer Safety

- Week 1** Arson Awareness
- Week 2** Bicycle Safety
- Week 3** Hotel/Motel Safety
- Week 4** Water, Boating & Electrical Safety

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

WEEK 1: ARSON AWARENESS

By the Numbers: Intentionally Set Fires

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

Community Problem

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

What You Can Do

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[USFA: Arson Awareness](#)

WEEK 2: BICYCLE SAFETY

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

Alabama Bicycle Helmet Law

- In 1995, the Alabama Legislature enacted a helmet law. It states that anyone under the age of 16 must wear a helmet while riding a bicycle.
- Not wearing a helmet may result in the following offenses:
 - First Offense- Bicycle safety counseling
 - Second Offense- Parent/guardian citation
 - Third Offense- Temporary bicycle confiscation

Wear a Helmet

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

Find the Right Helmet Fit

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

Use Appropriate Helmets for Different Activities

- Wear a helmet for all wheeled sports activities.
- A properly fitted bike helmet is just as effective when riding a scooter, roller skating or in-line skating.
- When skateboarding and long boarding, make sure a skateboarding helmet is worn.
- Proper equipment and maintenance are important.
- Ensure proper bike fit when shopping for a bike. Select one that is the right size for the child, not one he or she will grow into.
- When sitting on the seat of the bicycle, your feet should be able to touch the ground.
- Before the ride, make sure the reflectors are secure, brakes work properly, gears shift smoothly, and tires are tightly secured and properly inflated.
- Long or loose clothing can get caught in bike chains or wheel spokes. Dress appropriately to ensure a safe ride.

Keep an Eye Out

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

Rules of the Road

- You'd be surprised how much kids learn from watching you, so it's extra important for parents to model proper behavior. Wear a helmet, even if you didn't when you were a kid.

- Make eye contact with drivers. Bikers should make sure drivers are paying attention and are going to stop before they cross the street.
- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, not against it. Stay as far to the right as possible. Use appropriate hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stoplights.
- Stop and look left, right and left again before entering a street or crossing an intersection. Look back and yield to traffic coming from behind before turning left.

Be Bright, Use Lights

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

Hoverboards

- Hoverboard — part toy, part transportation. These self-balancing scooters have quickly become the latest fad. However, many hoverboards have been linked to fires. NFPA urges you to be fire safe when using these devices.
- If you purchase a hoverboard, choose a device with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read and follow all manufacturer directions. If you do not understand the directions, ask for help.
- An adult should be responsible for charging the hoverboard.
- Do not leave a charging hoverboard unattended.
- Never leave the hoverboard plugged in overnight.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the hoverboard.
- Stop using your hoverboard if it overheats.
- Extreme hot or cold temperature can hurt the battery.
- Signs of a Problem:
 - Excessive heat
 - Odor
 - Sparking
 - Smoke
 - If you notice any of these signs, stop using the device right away. Call 9-1-1. If safe to do so, move the hoverboard outside away from anything that can burn.

RESOURCES:

[Alabama Department of Public Health](#)

[Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

[NFPA: Hoverboard Safety](#)

WEEK 3: HOTEL/MOTEL SAFETY

Vacations and business travel make hotels and motels our home away from home. It is just as important to be prepared and know what you would do in a hotel/motel emergency as it is in your own home especially since on average, one of every 14 hotels/motels reported a structure fire each year.

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

If you hear an alarm,

- Leave the room, taking your key and closing all doors behind you.
- Use the stairs to get out. Typically, you should not use the elevator unless directed by the fire department. Some buildings are equipped with elevators intended for use during an emergency situation. These types of elevators will clearly be marked that they are safe to use in the event of an emergency.
- If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit.
- If all escape routes are blocked, return to your room.
- Shut off fans and air conditioners.
- Stuff wet towels or bedding in the cracks around the doors and vents.
- Call the fire department to let them know your location.
- Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or light-colored cloth.
- Bring a flashlight; keep it near your bed.

Hotel and Motel Fire Safety List

- The Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990 encourages fire safety in places that offer lodging to the public. Use the Hotel-Motel National Master List to find hotels and motels that:
- Have at least one single-station and hard-wired smoke alarm in each guest room.
- Have an automatic fire sprinkler system in each guest room for buildings that are four or more stories tall.
- Are approved for U.S. federal government employees while on official travel.
- To search the list, go to <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/hotel/>

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Hotel & Motel Safety](#)

[USFA: Hotel Safety](#)

WEEK 4: WATER, BOATING & ELECTRICAL SAFETY

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

There Is No Substitute for Active Supervision

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

Educate Your Kids About Swimming Safely

- Every child is different, so enroll children in swimming lessons when you feel they are ready. Teach children how to tread water, float and stay by the shore.
- Make sure kids swim only in areas designated for swimming. Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool. They need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow, and changing weather.
- Whether you're swimming in a backyard pool or in a lake, teach children to swim with a partner, every time. From the start, teach children to never go near or in water without an adult present.
- Make sure kids swim only in areas designated for swimming.
- Teach children not to dive into oceans, lakes or rivers, because you never know how deep the water is or what might be hidden under the surface.
- Do not dive in shallow pools, always enter feet first.

Life Jackets

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

Boating Safety

- Explain some basic boat rules and have everyone follow them. Children need to understand and follow rules such as keeping their hands and feet inside the boat at all times and not running on a boat.
- Infants and young kids are at a higher risk for hypothermia, so if you are taking a baby on a boat, just take a few extra precautions to keep your baby warm. If your children seem cold or are shivering, wrap them tightly in a dry blanket or towel.
- Enroll older kids in a boating safety course. Better yet, enroll with them.
- Get a vessel safety check every year for free from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons. For more information go to www.uscgboating.org and click "get a free safety check."
- A large portion of boating accidents that occur each year involve alcohol consumption by both boat operators and passengers. To protect your safety and loved ones around you, it is strongly recommended not to drink alcoholic beverages while boating.
- Make sure there's a working carbon monoxide alarm on any motorboat to alert your family to any buildup of toxic fumes from the engine.
- Let your teen operate a boat only in a supervised setting and in adherence to the laws in your area. Laws regarding the operation of a boat or watercraft vary from community to community.
- Make sure an adult is present whenever a teen is operating a personal watercraft.

Take Extra Steps Around Pools

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

Check the Drains in Your Pool and Spa

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

Learn CPR

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

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AROUND WATER

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

Tips for swimmers

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

Tips for boat owners

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

Tips for swimmers around pools, hot tubs, and spas

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

Tips for swimming pool owners

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

Signs of Electric Shock

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

If you feel a tingle while swimming

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

If you witness an Electric Shock Drowning

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

RESOURCES:

[Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association](#)

[SafeKids: Swimming & Water Safety](#)

[SafeKids: Boating Safety](#)

[SafeKids: Boating Risks](#)

JUNE



Fire Safety and the Great Outdoors

Week 1 Outdoor Grilling Safety

Week 2 Camping Safety

Week 3 Matches and Lighters

Week 4 Fireworks Safety

Events: Pet Preparedness Month

National CPR/AED Awareness Month

National Safety Month

WEEK 1: GRILLING SAFETY

When the warmer weather hits, there's nothing better than the smell of food on the grill. Seven out of every 10 adults in the U.S. have a grill or smoker*, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there's an increased risk of home fires.

In 2013-2017, fire departments went to an annual average of 10,200 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues per year, including 4,500 structure fires and 5,700 outside or unclassified fires. These fires caused an annual average of 10 civilian deaths, 160 civilian injuries and \$123 million in direct property damage.

Grilling by the numbers

- July is the peak month for grill fires (17%), including both structure, outdoor or unclassified fires, followed by June (14%), May (13%) and August (12%).
- In 2013-2017, an average of 19,000 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.** Half (9,300 or 49%) of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects; 5,200 thermal burns, per year, were caused by such contact or other non-fire events.
- Children under five accounted for an average of 2,000 or 38%, of the contact-type burns per year. These burns typically occurred when someone, often a child, bumped into, touched or fell on the grill, grill part or hot coals.
- Gas grills were involved in an average of 8,700 home fires per year, including 3,600 structure fires and 5,100 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. Eleven percent of gas grill structure fires and 23% of outside gas grill fires were caused by leaks or breaks.
- Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,100 home fires per year, including 600 structure fires and 500 outside fires annually.

Barbecue Grills

- Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet barbecue grills must only be used outdoors. Indoor use can kill occupants by causing fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Place the grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony, including any porch or balcony on an upper level of the building.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3 foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in the tray(s) below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Never leave a barbecue grill unattended.

Charcoal Grills

- Use one of the following methods to start charcoal for cooking:
 - If you use a charcoal chimney to start charcoal for cooking, use a long match to avoid burning your fingers when lighting the paper.
 - If you use an electrical charcoal starter, be sure to use a grounded extension cord.
 - If you choose to use lighter fluid, use only fluid intended for charcoal grills.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid to coals or kindling that has already been ignited.
- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid except charcoal starter or lighter fluid to start a charcoal fire.

- Store the charcoal starter fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Dispose of charcoal coals only after they are cool. Empty the coals into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid that is used only to collect coals. Place the container outside away from anything that can burn. Never empty coals directly into a trash can.

Propane Grills

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Grilling Fire Causes & Risks](#)

WEEK 2: CAMPING SAFETY

Campfires

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

Extinguishing Your Campfire

- Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible.
- Pour lots of water on the fire; drown all embers, not just the red ones.
- Pour until hissing sound stops.
- Stir the campfire ashes and embers with a shovel.

- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers.
- Stir and make sure everything is wet and they are cold to the touch.
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough dirt or sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool. Remember: do NOT bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire. REMEMBER: If it is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!

Carbon Monoxide Awareness

- Carbon monoxide (CO), often call the “silent killer,” is an invisible, odorless gas created when fuels (such as kerosene, gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely.
- Carbon monoxide can result from a number of camping equipment, including barbeque grills, portable generators or other fuel-powered devices.
- CO poisoning can result from malfunctioning or improperly vented furnaces or other heating appliances, portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or cars left running in garages.
- Carbon monoxide levels from barbeque grills or portable generators can increase quickly in enclosed spaces. Campers should keep and use these items in well-ventilated areas to avoid fumes leaking into the openings or vents of RVs and tents.
- Headache, nausea, and drowsiness are symptoms of CO poisoning.
- Exposure to CO can be fatal.

Installation of CO Alarms

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

Portable Generators

Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated area at least 5 feet away from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 5-foot distance from the generator exhaust system to the building.

If Your Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounds

- Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors.
- Call 9-1-1 or the fire department from the fresh air location. Remain there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.

Information provided by <https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/campfire-safety/how-to-maintain-and-extinguish-your-campfire> and <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CampingFireSafety.ashx?la=en> and <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/GeneratorSafety.ashx>

WEEK 3: MATCHES & LIGHTERS

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

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

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

- Children experience fire interest. They may ask questions such as how hot fire is or show an interest in fire through playing with fire trucks or cooking on a play stove. This is healthy, and it is time to begin educating about fire.

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

Information provided by NFPA <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tips-sheets/youngfiresettertipsheet.pdf>

WEEK 4: FIREWORKS SAFETY

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

Fireworks by the numbers

- Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 16,900 outside and other fires. These fires caused an average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and an average of \$43 million in direct property damage.
- In 2017, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 12,900 people for fireworks related injuries; 54% of those injuries were to the extremities and 36% were to the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for more than one-third (36%) of the estimated 2017 injuries

Leave Fireworks to the Professionals

The best way to protect your family is to not use any fireworks at home. Instead, attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.

Think Safety

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

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

Take Necessary Precautions

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

Be Prepared for an Accident or Injury

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

Information provided by NFPA <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Fireworks>
<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/FireworksSafetyTips.pdf>
<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Images/Public-Education/By-topic/Fireworks/FireworksInfographic.jpg>
<https://www.safekids.org/tip/fireworks-safety-tips>



- Week 1** Safety in Places of Public Assembly
- Week 2** Stop, Drop, Cover your Face, and Roll
- Week 3** Pet Fire Safety
- Week 4** Hurricanes Preparedness

Events: National Fireworks Safety Month
Parks and Recreation Month

WEEK 1: SAFETY IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY

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

Before You Enter

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

When You Enter

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

During an Emergency

React immediately. If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

Get out, stay out!

Once you have escaped, stay out. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. Let trained firefighters conduct rescue operations.

WEEK 2: STOP, DROP, AND ROLL

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

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

If your clothes catch fire

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

To prevent clothes from catching fire

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Public Safety Occupancies Safety Tips](#)

WEEK 3: PET FIRE SAFETY

Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love. Our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives. But pets can cause fires. We need to be careful with pets in the home. Pets and wild animals have a part in starting about 750 home fires per year. These fires were started by cooking equipment, fireplaces or chimneys, lighting, space heaters, lamps, bulbs, wiring and candles.

Safety Tips

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

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.

- 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.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Pet Safety Tip Sheet](#)

WEEK 4: HURRICANE SAFETY

The intensity of hurricanes that will hit land is measured in terms of categories that relate wind speeds and potential damage. Even less intense storms can cause damage in areas that have not prepared in advance.

Before

- Prepare your evacuation plan, including pets, transportation routes and destinations.
- Keep all trees and shrubs well-trimmed and clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat.
- Consider building a safe room.
- Stay informed! Listen to a NOAA weather radio or check local forecasts and news reports regularly.
- Cover your home’s windows with pre-cut plywood or hurricane shutters. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
- Bring in all outside furniture, decorations, garbage cans, etc.
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Fill the bathtub or buckets with water to use for cleaning and flushing toilets.
- Keep your gas tank at least 3/4 full at all times.
- Keep your emergency supplies kit, including water, and copies of important documents, in a waterproof, portable container, in an easily accessible location

Evacuate under the following conditions:

- If local authorities tell you to evacuate, follow their directions.
- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure, which are particularly hazardous no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an inland waterway.
- If you feel you are in danger.
- If you live in an area below sea level.

During

- If you choose not to evacuate, stay indoors and away from windows and glass doors. Notify out-of-area contacts of your decision. Close all interior doors and secure and brace exterior doors. Keep curtains and blinds closed. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level. Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Don’t be fooled by a lull in the storm—it could be the eye of the storm and winds could resume.

After

- Be aware of flooding and tornadoes.
- Stay out of flood waters, if possible.
- Stay away from downed power lines.
- If you evacuated, do not return to your home until local authorities say it is safe.

AUGUST



Eliminate Hazards in the Home

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

Events: Back to School Month

WEEK 1: CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

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

Safety Tips

- Look for housing with fire sprinklers when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing. This is the best fire protection.
- Make sure you can hear the building alarm system when you are in your dorm room bedroom.
- Learn your building’s evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
- Keep halls, exits, and stairs clear. If there is a fire, you need to leave quickly.
- Keep your room key, building key, and/or access card near your bed when you sleep. Take them with you when you hear the fire alarm and leave the building.
- Read any emergency information cards posted in your area.
- When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
- Make sure carbon monoxide alarms are installed in dorm rooms, apartments, or houses to provide early warning of carbon monoxide
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
- Check your school’s rules before using electrical appliances in your room.
- If you smoke, smoke outside and only where it is permitted, Use sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays. Don’t smoke in bed or when you’ve been drinking or are drowsy.
- Many schools do not permit the use of traditional candles. Consider using flameless candles. They come in many sizes, colors, and scents and look like wax candles.
- Call 9-1-1 to report fires or if you suspect fire activity.

On-Campus Housing

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.

Off-Campus Housing

- 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.
- Know two ways out of every room and practice the escape plan with your roommates.
- Test all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Never remove batteries or disable the smoke alarms or carbon monoxide alarms.

Alcohol use

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Campus Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[Campus Fire Safety Checklist](#)

[NFPA: Campus & Dorm Fires](#)

WEEK 2: HOARDING

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

What is Hoarding?

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

Why do People Become Hoarders?

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

Why Hoarding Increases Fire Risks

- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.
- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

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

What can the fire service do?

- The fire service may become aware of a hoarding situation through emergency response or notification by another agency, family member, or neighbor. Knowing how to talk to the person who is hoarding and how to work with other professional groups and organizations to effectively deal with the occupant and the hoarding behavior is important.
- Keep in mind that people with compulsive hoarding behavior are intelligent and care deeply about their possessions.

When talking to someone who is hoarding:

- Be respectful and show concern for the person's safety
- Match the language of the person. If the person talks about his "collection" or her "things", use that language.
- Avoid using derogatory terms, such as "junk", "trash", or "hoarding".
- Focus on safety issues, such as fires, fall hazards, and avalanche conditions. Note possible ignition sources or trip hazards and try to build support for addressing these issues instead of insisting on an immediate and overwhelming cleanup.
- Show empathy by indicating that while you understand that your presence is upsetting for the person, some kind of change is necessary.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Hoarding Risks](#)

[NFPA: Hoarding Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Hoarding](#)

WEEK 3: PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

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

Safety tips

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

When to Use Fire Extinguishers

- Before trying to fight a fire, be sure that:
- You know how to use the fire extinguisher and it is the correct type.
- Everyone else is leaving the home and someone is calling the fire department.
- The fire is small, confined, and not spreading.
- You have a clear escape route, and will not be overcome by smoke or toxic fumes.
- If the fire does not go out after using one extinguisher, back out of the area, close the door if possible, and get safely outside and call 9-1-1.
- If you have portable fire extinguishers, inspect them once a month and have them serviced annually by certified personnel. Check to see if your fire extinguisher is under any U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls.
- Where portable fire extinguishers are installed in the home, follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- As a general rule, where portable fire extinguishers are installed, a person should not have to travel more than 40 feet to reach one and never have to travel up or down stairs to reach it.
- As a general rule, portable fire extinguishers for the home should have a rating of at least 2-A:10B.

Use a fire extinguisher when all of these questions are answered "yes." If you're unsure about whether or not it's safe to use a fire extinguisher, and for all other situations, alert others, leave the building, and call 9-1-1 from a mobile or neighbor's phone. It is not recommended that children use fire extinguishers.

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

If the fire does not go out after using one extinguisher, back out of the room and get outside.

Types of fire extinguishers

- For use with ordinary materials like cloth, wood and paper and often found in homes and businesses
- For use with combustible and flammable liquids like grease, gasoline, oil and oil-based paints. Often found in homes and businesses
- For use with electrical equipment like appliances, tools, or other equipment that is plugged in. Often found in homes and businesses
- For use with flammable metals. Often found in factories
- For use with vegetable oils, animal oils and fats in cooking appliances. Often found in commercial kitchens (restaurants, cafeterias, catering businesses)
- There are also multipurpose fire extinguishers that might be labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C." Most home improvement stores carry multipurpose fire extinguishers that cover Class A through Class C.

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

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

Portable Fire Extinguishers and Children

NFPA believes that children should not be trained how to operate portable fire extinguishers. Teaching children to use portable fire extinguishers runs counter to NFPA messaging to get out and stay out if there is a fire.

Furthermore, children may not have the maturity to operate a portable fire extinguisher properly or decide whether or not a fire is small enough to be put out by the extinguisher. They may not have the physical ability to handle the extinguisher or dexterity to perform the complex actions required to put out a fire. In the process of extinguishing flames, children may not know how to respond if the fire spreads. NFPA continues to believe that only adults who know how to operate portable fire extinguishers should use them.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Fire Extinguisher Safety](#)

[USFA: Extinguishers](#)

WEEK 4: FIRE SAFETY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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

Home Fire Sprinklers

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

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms expire. Replace them every 10 years.
- 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.

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. They may find a pillow or bed shaker helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Research the products and select the ones that best meet your needs.

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 to 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.

Talk with someone from the fire department

- Ask them to 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.

Where to find equipment

- Search home improvement store websites or use a general search engine to look for strobe light smoke alarms. BRK/First Alert, Gentex, and Kidde brands offer this type of smoke alarm.
- Find smoke alarm accessories such as pillow or bed shakers, transmitters, and receivers at lifetonesafety.com, safeawake.com and silentcall.com.
- Choose devices that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

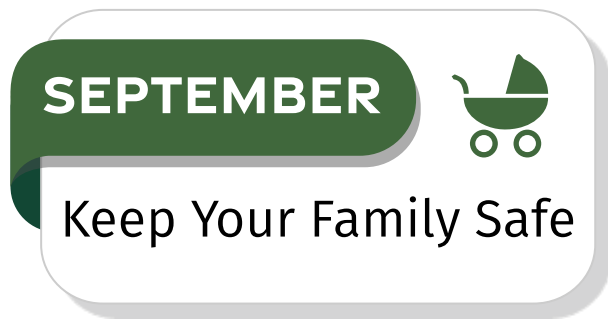
RESOURCES:

[NFPA: People with Disabilities](#)

[USFA: Disabilities](#)

[NFPA: Disability Safety Tips](#)

[NFPA: Smoke Alarms & Disability Safety Tips](#)



- Week 1** Babysitting Safety
- Week 2** Smoking
- Week 3** Child Passenger Safety
- Week 4** Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Events: 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance
National Preparedness Month
Firefighter Safety Month
Deaf Awareness Month
Child Passenger Safety Month/Week (3rd week)
Fall Prevention Awareness Week (4th week)

WEEK 1: BABYSITTING SAFETY

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

Home Escape Plan

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

Cooking Safety

- If you allow your babysitter to cook, make sure the babysitter:
 - Keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the stove.
 - Keeps your child at least 3 feet away from the microwave oven.
 - Never leaves the room while cooking.
 - Keeps anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
 - Keeps pets off surfaces and countertops.

Smoke Alarms

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

Other Tips

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

Babysitter Training

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Babysitting Safety](#)

WEEK 2: SMOKING SAFETY

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

The Numbers

Smoking materials, including cigarettes, pipes, and cigars, started an estimated 17,200 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 2014. These fires caused 570 deaths, 1,140 injuries and \$426 million in direct property damage. Smoking materials caused 5% of reported home fires, 21% of home fire deaths, 10% of home fire injuries, and 6% of the direct property damage

Smoking Safety

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

Put It Out

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

Smoking and Medical Oxygen

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

Electronic Cigarettes

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Smoking Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Smoking Fire Causes & Risks](#)

WEEK 3: CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Facts

- Road injuries are the leading cause of unintentional deaths to children in the United States.
- When installed and used correctly, child safety seats decrease the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent among infants, 54 percent among toddlers and 45 percent among children ages 4 – 8
- Children should ride in a vehicle back seat until they are 13 years old.

Choose the Right Direction: Rear- or Forward-Facing

- For the best protection, keep your baby in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible – until at least 2 years old. You can find the exact height and weight limit of your car seat on the side or back label. Kids who ride in rear-facing seats have the best protection for the head, neck and spine. It is especially important for rear-facing children to ride in a back seat away from the airbag.
- When your children outgrow a rear- facing seat around age 2, move them to a forward-facing car seat. Keep the seat in the back and make sure to attach the tether after you tighten and lock the seat belt or lower attachments (LATCH). Use the top tether at all times. Top tethers greatly reduce your car seat’s forward motion in a crash. Some forward-facing car seats have harnesses for larger children. Check labels to find the exact height and weight limits for your seat. Discontinue use of the lower attachments or top tether when your child reaches the limits set by your car seat and car manufacturers. You must read both manuals to know about those limits. Not to worry: Once your child meets the lower attachment weight limits, you will switch to a seat belt. Seat belts are made to protect very heavy adults as well as children in car seats and booster seats.

Check the Label

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

Know Your Car Seat's History

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

Register Your Car Seat

Register your new or currently used car seat, ensuring that you are promptly notified about future recalls. You can register online with your car seat manufacturer, using the information found on the label on your car seat at safercar.gov. You can also register by filling out the registration card that came with your car seat. It’s filled out with your car seat’s information. Mail the card; no postage required.

Make Sure Your Car Seat is Installed Correctly

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

Check Your Car Seat

- Seventy-three percent of car seats are not used or installed correctly, so before you hit the road, check your car seat.
- Learn how to install your car seat for free. Safe Kids hosts car seat inspection events across the country where certified technicians can help make sure your car seat is properly installed. They also serve in fixed locations called inspection stations during specific days and times in some communities. You may find an inspection station with certified technicians at a GM dealership, a hospital, or fire station. They will teach you so that you can always be sure your car seat is used correctly.

Is it Time for a Booster Seat?

- Take the next step to a booster seat when you answer “yes” to any of these questions:
 - Does your child exceed the car seat’s height or weight limits?
 - Are your child’s shoulders above the car seat’s top harness slots?
 - Are the tops of your child’s ears above the top of the car seat?
- If the car seat with a harness still fits and your child is within the weight and height limits, continue to use it until it is outgrown. It provides more protection than a booster seat or seat belt for a small child.

Be Wary of Toys

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

Buckle Up

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

Prevent Heatstroke

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

RESOURCES:

[SafeKids Worldwide Carseat Safety Tips](#)

[SafeKids Worldwide Child Passenger Safety](#)

WEEK 4: SAFETY WITH FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS

- Flammable and combustible liquids, which include gasoline, kerosene, lacquers, paint thinner, some cleaning fluids, hair spray, and paint solvents can be fire hazards because their vapors ignite easily. Even nail polish and nail-polish remover are flammable and should not be used near an open flame.
- Never smoke when you work with flammable or combustible liquids.
- Do not store hazardous liquids near any source of heat, sparks, or flame. That includes electric motors, which can spark when they switch on or off.
- Store gasoline in a tightly capped container that is specifically sold for the purpose. Store the container outside the home in your garage or garden shed, never in your basement.
- Use gasoline only as a motor fuel, never as a solvent or a degreaser and never as a substitute for charcoal lighter.
- Never bring gasoline indoors, even in small quantities.
- Oily and solvent-wet rags can combust without a heat source. Store them in a tightly-sealed metal container, or hang them outside to dry in a shady location away from structures and then discard them.
- If you spill a flammable liquid on your clothing, place the clothing outside to dry before laundering.
- Keep oil-based paints and flammable and combustible solvents in their original containers and tightly capped — never store them in breakable glass containers.
- When refueling any small motor, such as a lawnmower, snow blower, or string trimmer, make sure the motor has cooled prior to adding fuel. Spilled fuel can easily ignite and cause serious burns

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

OCTOBER



Elements of a Fire-Safe Home

Week 1 Safety in the Laundry Room

Week 2 Fire Prevention Week

Week 3 Home Fire Sprinklers

Week 4 Halloween Safety

Events: National Fire Prevention Month/Week
(week of the 8th)

Halloween

National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend

National School Bus Safety Week (3rd week)

National Teen Driver Safety Week (3rd week)

WEEK 1: SAFETY IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

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

Facts and figures

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

Safety Tips

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Clean out the dryer's lint filter before each use of the dryer. Remove the lint that has collected around the drum.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipe quarterly or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than usual for your clothes to dry or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time reduce the risk of fire or fire spread.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.
- Dryers should be properly grounded.
- Check the outdoor vent flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.
- Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.
- Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.
- Keep liquid laundry packets and all other poisons out of children's reach and sight.
- Choose a dryer that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Dryer & Washing Machine Fire Safety](#)

[NFPA: Dryer Fire Fact Sheet](#)

WEEK 2: FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

About Fire Prevention Week

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

Blaming it on the cow

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

The making of a pop culture phenomenon

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.

After the Great Fire, Chicago Tribune reporter Michael Ahern published a report that the fire had started when a cow kicked over a lantern while it was being milked. The woman was not named, but Catherine O'Leary was identified. Illustrations and caricatures soon appeared depicting Mrs. O'Leary with the cow. In 1893, however, Ahern admitted he had made the story up.

"Mrs. O'Leary's cow" has attracted the attention and imagination of generations as the cause of the fire. Numerous references, in a variety of media, have been made in American popular culture, including films, television, and popular music.

But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

The biggest blaze that week

The Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history, was the biggest blaze that week, but drew little note outside of the region—in and around Peshtigo, Wisconsin—because of the attention drawn by the Great Chicago Fire.

The Peshtigo Fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Nine decades of fire prevention

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but

in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 8 falls. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

Each year [NFPA offers a lot of different resources](#), including teaching materials for Fire Prevention Week.

2019 CAMPAIGN: Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and Practice your Escape™

This FPW campaign, “Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!” works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe. In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practice can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out. Plan ahead for your escape. Make your home escape plan and practice today.

Be a hero

How do you define a hero? Is it...a person who is courageous and performs good deeds? Someone who comes to the aid of others, even at personal risk? A hero can be all of those things. A hero can also be...someone who takes small, but important actions to keep themselves and those around them safe from fire. When it comes to fire safety, maybe you're already a hero in your household or community. If not, maybe you're feeling inspired to become one. It's easy to take that first step - make your home escape plan!

- Draw a map of your home. Include all windows and doors. Show an example of a completed home fire escape plan map.
 - Ask: Have you thought about how many windows you have in your home? Have you ever thought about a window being a way out?
- Find two ways out of every room. Go to each room in your home and point to the two ways out. It is important to plan at least two ways out of every room in case fire or smoke is blocking one way out.
 - Ask: What are some of the ways out that you have in your home?
- Make sure you can use all your ways out. Test all possible ways out. Make sure all windows and doors can be opened easily from the inside. This includes barred doors and windows. Choose security bars that have easy-to-use quick-release devices. Make sure everyone in the home can open them.
 - Ask: Have you tried to open all of the doors and windows in your home? Can they be easily opened by everyone that is living in the home?
- Make sure your doors and windows are not blocked. Remove anything that could stop you from getting out. Clearing the areas will allow a quick escape.
 - Ask: What are some examples of things that might block one of your ways out? Think about what could happen if an area was blocked. How much time would that take away from the seconds you have to escape?
- Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home. Have an outside meeting place that is a safe distance away at the front of your home. This will help the firefighters find you. The meeting place should be something that will not move, such as a tree or a light pole.
 - Ask: What would make a good meeting place outside of your home?
- Go over your plan with everyone in your home. It is important to include everyone in your home when making your home fire escape plan. Choose a time when everyone is home and have a meeting to go over the plan. It is also important to talk about your plan with overnight guests.
- Plan to assist anyone who needs help getting outside. There might be special considerations to be made for a young child, an older adult, or a person with a disability. Assign someone to help them get outside.
- Test your smoke alarms to be sure they are working. If the smoke alarm does not sound when tested, install a new battery. If it still does not work, replace the alarm. Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm.

Planning

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection. Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound and understands the warning of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

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

Practicing the Home Fire Drill

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

If There Is A Fire

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

Close the Door!

- A door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and lifesaving equipment.
- The simple act of closing the door reduces fire growth and spread; limits damage to your home and could possibly save lives.

- If you have to leave a room that is on fire, closing the door behind you can be the best decision you make.
- While the two most important things to remember in the event of a fire are to get out of the building and call 9-1-1, fire officials point out that simply closing doors behind you on your way out can help stop flames and smoke from spreading to other rooms. It also deprives a fire of oxygen, helping it to slow down and allowing occupants more time to escape.

Resources:

[Be a Hero Save a Hero- Know Two Ways Out](#)

[NFPA: Escape Planning](#)

[USFA: Fire Prevention Resources](#)

[NFPA: Fire Prevention Week](#)

WEEK 3: HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS

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

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

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

Facts about home fire sprinklers

- Automatic sprinklers are highly effective and reliable elements of total system designs for fire protection in buildings. According to an American Housing Survey, 4.6% of occupied homes (including multi-unit) had sprinklers in 2009, up from 3.9% in 2007, and 18.5% of occupied home built in the previous four years had sprinklers.
- 85% of all U.S. fire deaths occur in the home.
- Home fire sprinklers can control and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene.
- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. In 84% of home fires where the sprinklers operate, just one sprinkler operates.
- If you have a fire in your home, the risk of dying is cut by about one-third when smoke alarms are present (or about half if the smoke alarms are working), while automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying by about 80%.
- In a home with sprinklers, the average property loss per fire is cut by about 70% (compared to fires where sprinklers are not present.)
- The cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot.

General Tips

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

Installation

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

Maintenance

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

WEEK 4: HALLOWEEN SAFETY

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

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

Halloween by the numbers

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

Fire Safety Tips

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

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

Walk Safely

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

Trick or Treat With an Adult

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

Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

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

Double Check Candy and Costumes

- Check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them.
- Remind children to eat only treats in original, unopened wrappers.
- Candy should be thrown away if the wrapper is faded or torn, or if the candy is unwrapped.
- While glow sticks are good for visibility, remember that the liquid in glow sticks is also hazardous, so parents should remind children not to chew on or break them.
- Look for non-toxic designations when choosing Halloween makeup.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Halloween Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Halloween Season Fire Causes and Risks](#)

[SafeKids Worldwide: Halloween Safety Tips](#)

[SafeKids worldwide Halloween Visibility Flyer \(b&w\)](#)

[SafeKids worldwide Halloween Visibility Flyer \(color\)](#)



- Week 1** Barn Safety
- Week 2** Home Heating and Space Heater Safety
- Week 3** Thanksgiving Fire Safety
- Week 4** Prepare for Winter Storms

Events: Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week (1st full week)
Thanksgiving Holiday
Military Family Month

WEEK 1: BARN SAFETY

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

Common fire problems in rural areas

- Heating is a common cause of residential structure fires and deaths.
- Fixed heaters, including wood stoves, are involved in most rural residential heating fires.
- Damaged electrical equipment is often the source of fire in barns and other farm buildings.
- Many homes do not have working smoke alarms increasing risk of death in a fire.

Barn Safety Checklist

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Barn Safety Checklist](#)

[NFPA: Farm Safety](#)

WEEK 2: HOME HEATING AND SPACE HEATERS

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

Facts & Figures

- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for two of every five (40%) of home heating fires and four out of five (84%) of home heating fire deaths.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (30%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (56%) of home heating fire deaths.
- Nearly half (49%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.
- Local fire departments responded to an estimated average of 52,050 fires involving heating equipment accounting for 15% of all reported home fires during this time.
- These fires resulted in annual losses of 490 civilian deaths, 1,400 civilian injuries, and \$1 billion in direct property damage.
- Most home heating fire deaths (86%) involved stationary or portable space heaters.
- The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (27%) was failure to clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.
- The leading factor contributing to ignition for home heating fire deaths (54%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.
- Nearly half (48%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February.

General Heating

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

Portable Electric Space Heaters

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

Fuel-Burning Space Heaters

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer. When refueling, allow the appliance to cool first and then refuel outside.
- When using a fuel-burning space heater, open a window to reduce carbon monoxide exposure and ensure proper ventilation.

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

Wood-Burning and Pellet Stoves

- Have a qualified professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Wood stoves should be listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. Not only is it cleaner for the environment, it also creates less buildup in the chimney.
- In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Start the fire with newspaper, kindling, or fire starters. Never use a flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline, to start a fire. They produce invisible vapors that can easily catch fire.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep ash container at least 10 feet away from the home and any other nearby buildings. Never empty the ash directly into a trash can. Douse and saturate the ashes with water.
- Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

Fireplaces

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

Central Heating

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Heating Fire Causes](#)

[NFPA: Heating Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Educational Messages Desk Reference](#)

[NFPA: Heating Kit Hot Ideas](#)

[NFPA: Heating Safety Talking Points](#)

WEEK 3: THANKSGIVING FIRE SAFETY

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

Thanksgiving by the numbers

- In 2016, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,570 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires. Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Cooking equipment was involved in almost half of all reported home fires and home fire injuries, and it is the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

Turkey Fryers

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

If frying your own turkey is an absolute must, the following safety measures should be carefully followed:

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

GENERAL THANKSGIVING TIPS

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.

Stay Alert

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

Watch What You Heat!

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

Keeping Things That Can Catch Fire Away from Heat Sources

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

What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire

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

Keeping Children and Pets Away from the Cooking Area

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

Safe Cooking Equipment

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Cooking Fire Causes](#)

[USFA: Cooking Fire Prevention](#)

WEEK 4: PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

Winter fire safety by the numbers

- 890 people die in winter home fires each year.

- \$2 billion in property loss occurs each year from winter home fires.
- Winter home fires account for only 8% of the total number of fires in the U.S. but result in 30% of all fire deaths.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.
- A heat source too close to combustibles is the leading factor contributing to the start of a winter home fire (15%).
- 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

Get Ahead of Winter Freeze Checklist

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

Fire Safety During Winter Storms

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

RESOURCES:

[USFA: Winter Fire Prevention](#)

[NFPA: Winter Storm Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[NFPA: Top 10 Winter Freeze Tips](#)

DECEMBER



Holiday Fire Safety

- Week 1** Christmas Tree Safety
- Week 2** Winter Holiday Safety
- Week 3** Call 9-1-1 for Emergencies
- Week 4** Close Before You Doze

Events: Holidays
Safe Toys and Gifts Month

WEEK 1: CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

Between 2012-2016 U.S. fire departments responded to an average 170 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 4 deaths, 15 injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage annually.

Facts

- On average, one of every 45 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 139 total reported home fires. Two of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 43% of home Christmas tree fires.
- In one-quarter (27%) of the Christmas tree fires and in 80% of the deaths, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree.
- More than one-fifth (22%) of Christmas tree fires were intentional.
- Forty-two percent of reported home Christmas tree fires occurred in December and 33% were reported in January.

Picking the Tree

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

Placing the Tree

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

Lighting the Tree

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

After Christmas

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Christmas Tree Safety Tip sheet](#)

[FEMA: Holiday Safety](#)

[FEMA: Winter Holiday Fire Safety](#)

WEEK 2: WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles. Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Facts

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 800 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2012-2016. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian fire deaths, 34 civilian fire injuries and \$11 million in direct property damage.
- Ten percent of decoration fires were intentional.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in two of every five (42%) fires.
- More than one-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Fifteen percent started in the living room, family room or den.
- One-fifth (19%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 43% of home Christmas tree fires.
- Two of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den. Three-quarters of the fatalities and two-thirds of the associated injuries resulted from fires started in this area.
- The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve.

Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Extinguish candles when you leave a room or the home or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Holiday Entertaining

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

Think Safety around Fireworks for New Years

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

Fireworks by the numbers

- Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires per year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and 16,900 outside and other fires. These fires caused an average of three deaths, 40 civilian injuries, and an average of \$43 million in direct property damage.
- In 2015, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 11,900 people for fireworks related injuries; 51% of those injuries were to the extremities and 41% were to the head. Children younger than 15 years of age accounted for one-quarter (26%) of the estimated 2015 injuries.
- Ten percent of fireworks fires occur during the period from December 30 through January 3, with the peak on New Year's Day.

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

- Little arms are too short to hold sparklers, which can heat up to 1,200 degrees. How about this? Let your young children use glow sticks instead. They can be just as fun, but they don't burn at a temperature hot enough to melt glass.
- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks.
- Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Point fireworks away from homes, and keep away from brush, leaves and flammable substances.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

Be Prepared for an Accident or Injury

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

RESOURCES:

[NFPA: Winter Holidays](#)

[NFPA: Winter Holidays By the Numbers](#)

[NFPA: Winter Holiday Safety Tip Sheet](#)

[SafeKids Worldwide: Fireworks Safety Tip Sheet](#)

WEEK 3: CALLING 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

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

What is an emergency?

Any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department, or ambulance. If you're not sure whether the situation is a true emergency, officials recommend calling 9-1-1 and letting the call-taker determine whether you need emergency help. Examples include:

- A fire
- A crime, especially if in progress
- A car crash, especially if someone is injured
- A medical emergency, such as someone who is unconscious, gasping for air or not breathing, experiencing an allergic reaction, having chest pain, having uncontrollable bleeding, or any other symptoms that require immediate medical attention

When calling 9-1-1

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

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

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

Teach your children to call 9-1-1

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

Accidental Call

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

Post your address

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

[National 911 Program](#)

[USFA Prevention](#)

[Safebee: When You Should and Shouldn't Call 9-1-1](#)

[Emergency Care for You: When to Call 9-1-1](#)

WEEK 4: CLOSE THE DOOR

The pace in which a fire races through a home has increased at a deadly rate. Today, a person has about three minutes to escape a house fire when 40 years ago you had about 17 minutes. The materials used to build and furnish homes have changed. Natural materials were used in the past, but now synthetics are more common, and they burn faster. Add to that, the open floor plans common in today's homes and it presents the perfect storm for a quick escalation of a fire. Research tells us that closing your door can isolate the fire's flow, reduce room temperature, and keep carbon monoxide levels down.

Facts and Figures

- Carbon Monoxide is a killer: A bedroom with its door left open has about 10,000 PPM CO (parts per million of Carbon Monoxide), which is extremely toxic. A bedroom with a closed door has approximately 100 PPM CO.
- Fire is getting faster: 40 years ago, we had 17 minutes to escape our homes in the event of a fire. Today, due to synthetic materials, furniture, and construction, we now have 3 minutes to escape our home.
- Fire danger does not sleep: About half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 pm and 7 am, when most people are asleep.
- Breathe easier: In closed-door rooms, oxygen levels are at a breathable 18%, while open door rooms oxygen levels are at 8%, which is extremely low.
- Life or death: In experiments done by the Firefighter Safety Research Institution, a victim in the closed bedroom was survivable and able to function well through every experiment and well after fire department arrival. In the open bedroom, potential victims would be unconscious if not deceased prior to fire department arrival or as a result of fire ventilation actions.
- Slow down: A closed door can slow the spread of fire, reduce toxic smoke levels, improve oxygen levels and decrease temperatures dramatically – and that could make a life-saving difference in your home.
- Close the door when you are leaving: When exiting a burning structure, do not forget to close the door! It will cut off the fire's oxygen supply and may stop the fire's growth.
- Check those alarms monthly: It's important to take other safety precautions as well - roughly 3 out of 5 deaths happen in homes with no working smoke alarms or no smoke alarms at all.
- Plan your escape: Having a fire escape plan for your home is also important to stay safe during a fire - visit every room with your family and decide on a designated meeting spot at the front of the house.

RESOURCES:

[UL Firefighter Safety: Close Your Door](#)
[Close Your Door](#)