

Emergency Preparedness – Fire Prevention Month

October 2022



The month of October brings changes to our weather. The days will be a bit cooler and the leaves on the tree's will begin to change their colors. This is also that time of year when we need to prepare our properties to be cold-weather ready and fire safe. This will include changing the batteries in all smoke alarms, having the fireplaces inspected and cleaned, and testing your carbon monoxide detectors. The [American Red Cross](#) has additional resources to help families be prepared.

Safety Tips

MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.

KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.

HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.

PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.

PRACTICE using different ways out.

TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.


IF THE ALARM SOUNDS –

If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.

If you must escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.

Keeping Your Home Safe

Fire Prevention




CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

20% of homes have smoke detectors that do not work or are missing batteries.

2x Working smoke alarms can double your chances of survival in a fire.




Replace batteries **twice a year** and keep alarms free of dust.



Smoke alarms should be installed on **every floor** of your home.

KNOW THE RISKS



10 There is a house fire **every ten seconds** in the U.S.

30 Home fires can spread in as little as **thirty seconds**.


Make sure that your family has a **fire escape plan** for your home and practice it regularly.

Cooking is the **leading cause** of house fires.

More than **15,000** fires a year are started by clothes dryers. Clean the vents at least once a year.

Remember: If there's ever a fire, **GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL** for help.

MAINTAIN YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM



Electrical fires can be caused by: broken wires, wire insulation drying out, loose switches or receptacles, and overheating caused by dirt and oil.

Get your electrical system checked by a licensed electrician **every four years**.

Faulty wiring is the number one cause of electrical fires. **The warning signs?** Flickering lights; breakers that always trip; fuses that blow; a burning smell when you plug in appliances; outlets and switches that spark; and discolored wall outlets.

Be fire smart


with electricity in your home.

Did you know?

45,000 home electrical fires each year.

Plug only **1** heat-producing appliance directly into a wall outlet at a time.

Never use an extension cord with a heat-producing appliance.

BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY



GET A RESCUE ALERT STICKER

These stickers, placed on a front-facing window, will alert rescue workers of the presence of pets inside your home.



ARRANGE A SAFE HAVEN

Arrange a place for pets to stay if you evacuate. Do not leave your pets at home. If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for them!



MAKE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Have your kit made and keep it in a safe location near your front door for easy access.



KEEP IDENTIFICATION ON YOUR PET

Keep up-to-date license and contact info on your pet at all times. Consider having pets microchipped.