

Emergency Preparedness – Fall Edition

November 2022



The Fall Season is finally here and as our weather begins to cool off and the trees begin to change their colors, many of us may start using our heaters for the first time. It is important with making sure our heaters are safe to use. First step is to replace your air filters. Dirt and dust can be a big problem. Depending on the type of air filter you use, some might need to be changed monthly, while others will need to be replaced every 60 to 90 days. It is also important to look for areas in your home that might have drafts. By eliminating the drafts, this will improve the energy efficiency inside your home. It is also a good idea to schedule a technician to perform a seasonal tune-up on your central air and heating system. For more information, please go to the [CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) for additional useful information and tips.

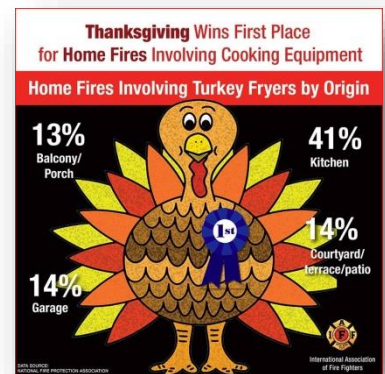
As Thanksgiving approaches, it is time to prepare the holiday feast and brush up on home fire safety and prevention in your household. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires in the United States and the [American Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org) urges everyone to never leave cooking food unattended, which is the most common cause of kitchen fires.

Daylight Savings ends on Sunday, November 6, 2022

With daylight savings time ending, not only does this give us an extra hour of sleep, but this also means a large percentage of people will be driving in the dark, both in the mornings and in the evenings. There are several steps that can be taken to ensure your safety and others.

- (1) Before you pull out of the driveway, ensure your headlights and brake lights are functioning properly.
- (2) Allow yourself additional time for traveling. Along with the time change, this will also mean the possibility of rain.
- (3) Always approach crosswalks, intersections, and transit stops with caution.
- (4) Follow the speed limits and adjust your speed accordingly to weather conditions.
- (5) Maintain a safe following distance so you are prepared to react under any situation while driving.
- (6) Don't drive distracted. Driving while distracted with limited visibility/or in poor weather conditions can cause serious injury or even death.

These tips are something we all need to follow regardless of the time of year, but when you are driving in the dark, it is especially important.



T	U	R	K	E	Y
Thaw turkey at a safe temperature – 40°F or below	Use extra caution when frying a turkey and oil-free fryers if possible	Remember to clean all cooking surfaces regularly	Keep children away from hot foods and surfaces, and kitchen utensils	Ensure turkey is cooked and has reached minimum temperature of 165°F	Your smoke detector should be tested prior to cooking