



Protect Your Family and Home National Fire Prevention Week October 9 – 15, 2011

This National Fire Prevention Week, take a few hours to review these safety tips for your home. Many fire hazards go undetected because we simply do not take the necessary steps to secure our homes. Here are a few to get you started. Post these on your refrigerator or in a common area where you can refer to often.

Fire Safety Tips for Your Home:

1. Install and maintain a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test monthly, and replace the battery every year.
2. Create an escape plan and make sure everyone in your home practices it at least twice a year. Plan two routes of escape from every room, including those on the second floor, and designate a meeting place outside of the home. Remember: get out and stay out.
3. Teach children not to hide from firefighters, but to get out quickly and call for help from another location. Show them how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out.
4. When your children are ready, familiarize them with the sound of the smoke alarm. Teach them that when one goes off, they must leave the home and go outside to the designated family meeting spot.
5. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children. Teach children that hot things can burn them.
6. Never leave cooking unattended because a serious fire can start in seconds. Keep towels and potholders away from the range. Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave your home.
7. Look for space heaters with an auto-off feature that shuts the heater off if it falls over. Your fireplace should have a screen large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs. Establish a three-foot safety zone around all heat sources.
8. Carbon monoxide (CO), often called “the silent killer,” is a gas you can’t see, taste, or smell and can be deadly in minutes. Symptoms of CO poisoning may include headache, nausea, and drowsiness. Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warnings of carbon monoxide. CO alarms are not a replacement for smoke alarms.
9. Remove flammable items. Clear away trash, flammable debris, and decorative materials from around the house. Have your chimneys cleaned and inspected. And, keep clothes, blankets, towels, and other items three feet from space heaters and stove burners.

For more resources, visit <http://www.ready.gov/kidsfiresafety> and <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens>.