



October is Fire Prevention Month

Here are Some Safety Tips for Your Home

According to the US Fire Administration, more than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires while approximately 20,000 are injured. Most fires occur in the home. Many of these fires can be prevented or their severity lessened, by following these simple rules:

Every Home Should Have at Least One Working Smoke Alarm

Smoke alarms are inexpensive and available at any hardware or discount store. If you live in a multi-level dwelling, install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test it monthly, and replace the battery at least once a year. Smoke alarms themselves should be replaced after ten years of service, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

Tips to Prevent Electrical Fires

Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.

Alternate Heaters

Keep anything combustible at least three feet away from any source of heat. Use fire screens in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from jumping out, and have your chimney cleaned annually. The creosote buildup can ignite a chimney fire that could easily spread. Kerosene heaters should be used only where approved by authorities. Never use a gasoline or camp-stove fuel inside your home.

Plan Your Escape

Develop and practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Stay low to the floor for better breathing and visibility and check doors to make sure they are cool before opening them. Never open doors that are hot. Pick a location where everyone can meet after leaving the house. Get out then call for help.