

BURN PREVENTION AND FIRE SAFETY TIPS

KITCHEN SAFETY

Stove/Oven

- ❑ Never leave cooking unattended.
- ❑ Keep the stovetop and oven clean, as buildup of grease and debris can ignite easily.
- ❑ Keep stove area clear flammable materials. Don't leave oven mitts, paper or cloth towels near the stove. Dishtowels should never be hung on the oven door.
- ❑ Do not place or spray aerosols near an open flame.
- ❑ Cook on back burners and turn pot handles in to prevent accidental spillage.
- ❑ Wear close fitting clothes and roll up sleeves. Turn stovetop flames off before reaching above the stove.

Microwave Ovens

- ❑ Use only containers designed for microwave use.
- ❑ Allow food to cool before removing it from the microwave.
- ❑ Prevent steam burns by removing lids carefully. Stir thoroughly to distribute heat evenly.
- ❑ Never microwave a baby bottle.

KID'S CORNER

- ❑ Create a “kid free zone” around the stove/oven.
- ❑ Do not allow appliance cords to dangle within reach of small children.
- ❑ Keep hot liquids out of reach of children.
- ❑ Do not use tablecloths or placemats when small children are present.
- ❑ Do not cook at the stove, eat or drink hot foods while holding a child.
- ❑ Keep children out of the kitchen during hectic meal preparations. Assign older children to be responsible for younger children during this time if necessary.

- ❑ Store all matches and lighters up high, out of children's reach.
- ❑ Use child resistant lighters.

BATHROOM SAFETY

- ❑ Set water heaters at 120° F. Anything higher puts those in your household; especially small children and the elderly, at risk for scald injuries.
- ❑ Do not use hairdryers or other electrical appliances near the sink or a full tub.
- ❑ When preparing a bath for small children, remember to keep the water temperature no more than 101° F as their skin is more sensitive to heat. Have the children test the water themselves before getting in.

HEATING SAFETY

- ❑ Space heaters need space – at least three feet away from anything that can burn - including furniture, drapes and rugs.
- ❑ Keep children and pets away from all heaters
- ❑ Never leave heaters unattended.
- ❑ Refuel kerosene heaters with kerosene only, outside, after the heater has cooled.
- ❑ Always use an approved glass or metal protective screen in front of your fireplace.
- ❑ Store flammable materials like newspaper, kindling or wood away from stoves and fireplaces.
- ❑ Do not use throw rugs in front of the stove or fireplace.
- ❑ Have your chimney inspected by a professional once a year and have it cleaned if necessary
- ❑ Use only dry seasoned wood in wood stoves and fireplaces.
- ❑ Addition of wood and attendance to the fire should be the responsibility of an adult.
- ❑ Have a fire extinguisher readily available.
- ❑ Never dispose of ashes, hot or cold, in anything but a metal can or bin.

BASEMENT

- ❑ Always store paint and other flammable liquids in their original, labeled containers with tight fitting lids and away from heat sources.
- ❑ Remove trash from your home.
- ❑ Don't store anything near a furnace or water heater.
- ❑ Clean the lint trap on the clothes dryer after each use.
- ❑ If flooding occurs, turn off electrical circuits before stepping into the water.

SMOKERS

- ❑ Never smoke in bed or near flammables.
- ❑ Provide smokers with large, deep ashtrays and douse butts with water before discarding them
- ❑ Douse butts with water before discarding them.
- ❑ Check around cushions and upholstered furniture for smoldering cigarettes before going to bed.

OUTDOORS SAFETY

Gasoline

- ❑ Gasoline should always be stored outside in a detached shed or garage, in small amounts, in an approved, sealed container out of reach of children.
- ❑ Never use gasoline or other flammable liquid as a cleaning agent.
- ❑ Never fill gasoline motors in an enclosed space, such as a garage.
- ❑ Before starting a lawnmower, snow blower, or motorcycle; move it away from gasoline fumes.
- ❑ Let small motors cool before you refuel them.

Grilling

- ❑ Never use gasoline to enhance or start a fire.

- ❑ Don't add charcoal lighter fluid once the fire has started (use dry kindling to revive the flame).
- ❑ Use grills outside only, well away from buildings, vegetation and other combustibles.
- ❑ Supervise children carefully when a grill is use.
- ❑ Never allow horseplay around the grill.

APARTMENT/DORM SAFETY

- ❑ Know where the nearest stairwell is located.
- ❑ Count how many doors are between your dwelling and the stairwell. (In a fire, the smoke can be so thick you will have no visibility and you need to know your way out without the benefit of vision)
- ❑ Contact the building management and/or your local fire department for proper evacuation procedures.
- ❑ Never use an elevator in the event of a fire.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- ❑ Never allow an electrical appliance or its cord come in contact with water unless that is what it was designed for (per manufacturers instructions).
- ❑ If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug immediately and have it serviced.
- ❑ Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed.
- ❑ Don't overload extension cords or outlets.
- ❑ Never connect more than two extension cords.
- ❑ Never run electrical cords under rugs.
- ❑ Don't tamper with the fuse box or use improperly sized fuses.
- ❑ Don't place flammable objects on or near light bulbs.
- ❑ Always follow manufacturers instructions on type of light bulb and wattage for a light.

SMOKE DETECTORS

- ❑ Install smoke detectors on every level of your home **and** in each bedroom.
- ❑ Do not install a smoke detector near cooking vapors.
- ❑ Test smoke detectors monthly, following manufacturers instructions.
- ❑ Change batteries twice a year on daylight savings, or whenever you hear a “chirp” indicating a low battery. Follow manufacturers instructions for long life batteries.
- ❑ Never borrow or remove batteries from a smoke detector.
- ❑ Replace smoke detectors that are more than 10 years old, the effectiveness is not guaranteed.
- ❑ Vacuum smoke detectors to keep them dust free and functioning.
- ❑ CO is a tasteless, odorless, colorless poisonous gas. Every home should also have at least one carbon monoxide detector.

FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

- ❑ A working smoke detector is the most important part of a fire escape plan.
- ❑ NEVER ignore a fire alarm!
- ❑ Most residential fires occur between midnight and six a.m.
- ❑ In the event of a fire, you have less than two minutes to escape safely.
- ❑ Prepare for an emergency by designing an escape plan with the entire family.
- ❑ Know two unobstructed ways out of each room.
- ❑ Feel all doors for evidence of heat before opening them.
- ❑ Close doors behind you to hinder the spread of fire.
- ❑ Close room doors before opening windows.
- ❑ If your escape route involves an upper level window, be sure to plan a safe way of getting to the ground.

- ❑ Decide on a meeting place. Pick a place that is safely away from the home but not across a busy street. The entire household should agree on a spot (mailbox, tree, neighbors house) and know to meet there in the event of an emergency.
- ❑ Practice your escape plan with the entire household at least twice a year.
- ❑ Remember to crawl low under smoke.
- ❑ Stop, Drop and Roll if your clothing catches on fire.