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 of 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.