

TENNESSEE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



MONTHLY FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION PLANNING GUIDE 2018-2019

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	1
BACKGROUND	3
GOALS: Focused Fire Prevention.....	4
OCTOBER 2018	6
NOVEMBER 2018	16
DECEMBER 2018.....	27
JANUARY 2019	37
FEBRUARY 2019	48
MARCH 2019.....	57
APRIL 2019.....	67
MAY 2019	75
JUNE 2019.....	84
JULY 2019	94
AUGUST 2019.....	103
SEPTEMBER 2019.....	112
SUBJECT INDEX.....	122
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION	123
<i>Get Alarmed, TN Smoke Alarm Program</i>	123

MISSION STATEMENT

“The State Fire Marshal's Office is committed to protecting the safety of Tennesseans and their property through fire prevention, education, codes enforcement, regulation, investigation and law enforcement.”

Historically, Tennessee's fire mortality rate for civilians has been among the highest in the nation and it is the State Fire Marshal's Office's mission to change that. The purpose of this document is to provide a 12-month public fire education program as a guide for SFMO fire prevention activities. It is also provided to local fire departments and officials across the state to promote a statewide coordinated fire prevention effort. This plan is anticipated to help in the fight to reduce and prevent fire related fatalities that occur each year in our state.

Tennessee Fire Prevention Facts

1. In 2017, Tennessee had a fire dollar loss of \$222 million. TN fire departments responded to 22,807 fires, which included 8,274 structure fires. 85 fire fighters were injured, and one fire fighter died in 2018. 191 unintentional civilian structure fire injuries and 85 unintentional civilian structure fire deaths were reported. 22% of structure fire reports lacked sufficient information to determine cause. 38% of fatalities resulted from fires of unknown origin.
2. Close to 92% of fire deaths in 2017 were in residential occupancies, which includes one- and two-family homes, apartments, and manufactured homes.
3. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are considered to be one of the least expensive and most effective means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire and could reduce the risk of dying from a fire in your home by almost half.
4. The state's fire incident reports for 2017 indicated that smoke alarms were present in only 26% of fatal fire cases. Increasing the presence of smoke alarms in Tennessee households will likely result in more lives being saved from fire danger. However, there are also documented cases where working smoke alarms did not alert occupants, or occupants were affected by smoke and gases before smoke alarms activated.
5. According to NFPA, the combination of working smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers lowers the risk of death from fire by more than 80%. The fire death rate for people 85 and older is five times the national average. People with a physical or mental disability are more than twice as likely to die in a fire.
6. Similar to the nation, the state's residential fire victims tend to be the very young and the very old. Members of these two groups die in fatal fires in proportions that exceed their share of the population.

In Tennessee during 2017,

A fire department responded to an alarm every 57 seconds.
A fire department responded to a fire every 18 minutes.
One structure fire was reported every 47 minutes.
One accidental fire death occurred every 4 days, 7 hours.

BACKGROUND

In 1915, the Fire Prevention Division, also known as the State Fire Marshal's Office ("SFMO"), was established by the Tennessee General Assembly under the Department of Labor. The Division was tasked to prevent and investigate fires. In 1937, the Division was transferred to the Department of Insurance and Banking. The mission of the Fire Prevention Division has been widely expanded, and is now under the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. The eight sections within the SFMO are Administrative Services, Codes Enforcement, Education and Outreach, Electrical, Residential, & Marina Inspections, Fire Investigations, Manufactured Housing and Modular Buildings, the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, and the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education.

In Tennessee, there have been many attempts to improve fire prevention efforts dating back to 1948 when President Harry S. Truman conducted the nation's first Conference on Fire Prevention. Tennessee was one of 34 states that set up a "Fire Safety Committee" and one of 18 states that held a statewide fire prevention conference.

That commitment to safety continues today as all sections of the State Fire Marshal's Office strive to protect the lives and property of Tennesseans. Extensive efforts have been made to significantly lower our state's fire fatality rate. These efforts have included data analysis of structure fires, a massive smoke alarm installation campaign, and targeted educational outreach to high-risk populations. The Division hosts an annual Fire Loss Symposium to bring together fire service leaders from across Tennessee to discuss strategies for preventing fires.

Over the past five years, Tennessee has seen a 23% reduction in its fire mortality rate (from 17.5 to 13.5). In addition, Tennessee recently dropped out of the top 10 in NFPA's ranking of U.S. states with high fire mortality rates. The State Fire Marshal's Office has made significant progress in reducing fire loss in Tennessee, but there is always more work to be done.

GOALS: Focused Fire Prevention

The goal for the 2018-2019 Statewide Public Fire Education Program is to focus resources where they matter most. This method of focused fire prevention will specifically target high-risk areas of the state with crucial fire prevention messages. While working with the local fire departments, the goal is to accomplish the following in each of the targeted areas:

1. Provide resources to ensure that all residential structures have working smoke alarms.
2. Provide local fire departments with resources to conduct door-to-door public education programs, including offering home fire safety surveys.
3. Educate and promote what to do in the event of a fire. In particular, promote developing escape plans and practicing exit drills.
4. Provide information on how residential fire sprinklers can save your life.
5. Promote the “Close the Door!” campaign to educate the public on how closing a door can reduce fire growth and possibly save lives.
6. Provide public fire education messages that are specific to each community.
7. Establish community involvement and awareness about fire safety with local officials.
8. Provide outreach to high risk populations within the targeted areas.
9. Use local media and other technology to reach high risk targets.

This high-risk focused approach will be promoted throughout the next year in an effort to support fire prevention in the most comprehensive effort ever in Tennessee. The SFMO will continue to use data from fire reports, news media articles, death certificates, fire investigation section reports, insurance reports, and other means to track the fire mortality rate. Maps utilizing GIS technology to analyze social economic conditions and fire mortality data collected over the past 10 plus years will be studied to further our reach in target areas. The targets are specific, even down to the census tract and street level. Special emphasis will be placed on these areas with individualized programs developed to address local issues.

The majority of the public education topics used to support this program are from the National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”) publication titled, “NFPA Educational Messages Desk Reference.” These topics are introduced into monthly plans from existing state and local sources. The result is a comprehensive public fire education plan or guide for use by state and local officials.

Please utilize the information provided within this guide to promote fire prevention and life safety measures. The participation of local and state resources is critical in reducing the fire mortality rate in Tennessee. Special care, however, must be taken in communicating fire and life safety messages to youth. The following recommendation from the NFPA should be the basis for fire safety educational programs for children.

Understanding the Impact of Fire and Life Safety Messages on Children

From the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Overall conclusion and recommendations for safety programming:

For both younger and older children, watching positively framed videos was more effective than watching negatively framed videos. Parents also rated positively framed videos as more effective. Thus, safety messages should focus on depicting the positive outcomes that result from engaging in safety behaviors. Communicating safety messages by depicting the negative consequences of unsafe behaviors were not as effective as communicating the positive outcomes of safe behavior.

When parents discuss media content with their children, children learn more. These parental mediation effects were maximized when parents were provided with discussion guidelines. When parents were simply asked to discuss the videos with their children, without being given specific guidelines on how to do so, outcomes were less favorable.

Parents need assistance with how to discuss media content with their children.

Overall, findings from this research suggest that the impact of safety messages on children will be greatest when messages are framed positively, parents are encouraged to discuss these messages with children, and parents are provided with discussion guidelines.

Even though this study used parents (or legal guardians), the findings also will likely generalize that teachers and other adults who discuss media content with children fall under the same recommendations. Thus, if safety videos are to be developed for use in schools, our findings indicate that such videos should be accompanied with guides to assist teachers.

OCTOBER 2018

EVENTS:

- National Fire Prevention Week™ /Month
- SFMO Fire Prevention Week™ Kick-off Event
- SFMO Poster Contest
- Firehouse Expo
- Halloween
- National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend
- *Get Alarmed, TN* Events: two (2) canvasses

MONTHLY THEME: “Elements of a Fire-Safe Home”

EDUCATOR TIP: Join forces with your local Domino’s store to deliver pizzas aboard a fire engine. Customers with working smoke alarms will get their pizza free, and customers without working alarms can have new alarms or batteries replaced for free. Found out more: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/partners-in-safety/dominos-pizza>

CUSTOMIZABLE SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES



“Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.” This year’s Fire Prevention Week™ campaign, “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere,” works to educate people about three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire—and how to escape safely in the event of one.

<https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/about.html>

October 2018 Topics

Week 1 – Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.

Week 2 – Prevent Kitchen Fires

Week 3 – Home Fire Sprinklers

Week 4 – Halloween Safety

State Fire Marshal's Office Annual Poster Contest

State officials and local fire departments across Tennessee will be promoting participation in the fire prevention poster contest. The local community school children will be creating posters based on the national fire prevention theme of the year. They will be judged on a local level and the winners from each participating community will be turned into the state for judging. The state contest will be held in December. A state winner for each grade level from K-12 will be chosen, as well as 1 winner from each of the two special needs divisions (Division I: K-5th grade & Division II: 6th -12th grade). All winners and their families will get to attend the state awards banquet held in 2018.

State Fire Marshal's Office Fire Prevention Week™ Kick-off

Fire departments and safety organizations from around the state gather at the Bicentennial Mall State Park in downtown Nashville to kick off National Fire Prevention Month. Safety displays and demonstrations will be held throughout the day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 615-574-0240 for more information.

National Fire Service History

- October 19, 1857 – Chicago Building Collapse (10 firefighter deaths)
- October 8-9, 1871 – Great Chicago Fire (300 deaths)
- October 8, 1871 – Great Peshtigo Fire (1152 deaths)
- October 28, 1954 – PA Chemical Tank Explosion (12 firefighter deaths)
- October 26, 1962 – New York Building Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- October 17, 1966 – New York Mercantile Building Fire (12 firefighter deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- October 22, 1930 – Tennessee Fireman's Association formed

OCTOBER: WEEK 1— Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware. Fire can happen anywhere.

Overview: This year’s Fire Prevention Week™ campaign, “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere” works to educate people about three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire—and how to escape safely in the event of one.

- “LOOK” for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.
- “LISTEN” for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.
- “LEARN” two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Tools from NFPA for Fire Prevention Week™
 - <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/educate.html>
- Fire Prevention Week™ Kick-Off Talking Points
 - <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/pdfs/FPW18Talking%20Points.pdf>
- Sample Proclamation
 - <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/pdfs/FPW18proclamation.docx>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to spread the “Look. Listen. Learn.” message:

- Customizable press release
 - <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/pdfs/FPW18PressRelease.pdf>
- Logos
 - <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/logos.html>
- Twitter
 - It’s #FirePreventionWeek! Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere! <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
 - Look for places in your home fire can start. Here are leading causes of home fires: #FirePreventionWeek <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
 - Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm - know what to do if you hear it! #FirePreventionWeek <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
 - Look for two exits from every room in your home - usually a door and a window. #FirePreventionWeek <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
 - Download the @NFPA home escape planning tip sheet & keep your family safe! #FirePreventionWeek <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
 - See more here: <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/pdfs/FPW18SampleSocial.docx>
- Facebook
 - “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere!” That’s the theme for #FirePreventionWeek, October 7-13, 2018. <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>

- Look for places home fires can start and minimize those risks: Keep cooking areas clear of clutter, keep anything that can burn well away from heat sources, and make sure electrical outlets aren't overloaded. <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm. If you hear it, take it seriously – whether you're at home or any other location! <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
- Make sure you have adequate smoke alarm protection! You should have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, in each bedroom and near all sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms once a month to make sure they're working! <http://ow.ly/Ar8m30jPLFZ>
- See more here: <https://www.nfpa.org/fpw/pdfs/FPW18SampleSocial.docx>

Educator Tip: Giveaways are very popular during Fire Prevention Week™. Whether you are hosting an event at your fire station or visiting a school as part of a fire prevention outreach event, you should always have something free to give out to kids, parents, and teachers. NFPA has a number of FPW branded giveaways that can be purchased on their website (link: <http://catalog.nfpa.org/2018-Fire-Prevention-Week-Must-Haves-C3472.aspx?icid=D645>) or you can give out items that are branded with your fire department's emblem. Popular giveaway items include:

- Fire hats
- Coloring books/activity books
- Pens/pencils/crayons
- Stickers
- Magnets
- Badges
- Toy basketballs/softballs/soccer balls/footballs
- Slinkies
- Slap bracelets
- Frisbees
- Yo-yos

NFPA Messages:

Home Fire Escape

4.1.2 Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

4.1.7 Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

If There Is a Fire

4.3.1 When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place. Call 9-1-1.

OCTOBER: WEEK 2— Prevent Kitchen Fires

Overview: Cooking is the leading cause of home fires nationwide and in Tennessee. The majority of cooking fires stem from unattended cooking. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen, more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries. Cooking fires can be prevented!

Resources: The following resources are available from NFPA:

- “Keep An Eye On What You Fry!” Infographic
 - http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Cooking_Fire-Safety_NFPA.pdf
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Cooking Safety” YouTube Video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm6UMPP2z8I>
- Cooking Safety Checklist
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/cooking_safety_checklist.pdf?la=en
- “How To Prevent Cooking Fires and Related Injuries” PowerPoint
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/usfa_cooking_safety.ppt?as=1&iar=1&la=en
- Easy-to-read cooking safety handout
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/handouts-in-other-languages/low-literacy-pieces/translation_english_cooking.pdf?la=en
- Spanish language cooking safety handout
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/handouts-in-other-languages/cooking_safety_spanish_latino.pdf?la=en
- Various cooking safety videos from NFPA
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking/videos-and-public-service-announcements>



Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote kitchen fire safety.

- Twitter
 - Keep an eye on what you fry! Unattended cooking = leading cause of cooking fires. @NFPA @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN <http://bit.ly/2dPTZTf>
 - Keep kids safe! Have a 3-foot child-free zone around hot food and drink. @NFPA @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN <http://bit.ly/2dPTZTf>
 - Careful in the kitchen! Cooking = leading cause of home fires in the US. @NFPA @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN <http://bit.ly/2dPTZTf>
- Facebook
 - Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave, even for a second, turn the stove off. <http://bit.ly/2dPTZTf>
 - Keep an eye on what you fry! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires in Tennessee and the rest of the country. <http://bit.ly/2dPTZTf>

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop. Remember: cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. <http://bit.ly/2dPTZTf>

Educator Tip: Open houses can be a great way to show local residents how to cook safely. Set up a mock kitchen (using an old or fake stove) to demonstrate correct and incorrect cooking-related behaviors. Invite community members to participate in the demonstration. Some key behaviors to demonstrate:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep things that catch fire (paper & food products, curtains, etc.) away from the stovetop.
- Have a “kid-free” zone of at least 3 feet around the stove area.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.
- Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- If you have a stove fire, when in doubt, get out and call 9-1-1.

NFPA Messages:

Cooking

7.1.1 To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.

7.2.2 Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.

7.3.1 Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains—away from your stovetop.

7.4.1.1 Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

7.4.1 Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.

OCTOBER: WEEK 3—Home Fire Sprinklers

Overview: Home fire sprinklers provide the best fire protection currently available. They protect lives and property by keeping fires small and allowing more time for escape. If you're building, buying or remodeling a home, consider the installation of home fire sprinklers. If you are looking to rent an apartment or condo, look for one that is fully sprinklered.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- “NFPA Safety Tips – Home Fire Sprinklers” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g73JQBFf0vE>
- National Fire Sprinkler Association Website
 - <https://nfsa.org/>
- Burn Demonstration Videos from Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0vJfxO-2yc>
 - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-sprinkler-demonstration-video/>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative website
 - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative newsletter
 - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools/newsletter.aspx>
- “Sprinkler Saves” website
 - <http://sprinklersaves.com/>
- Home Fire Sprinklers “In The News” via NFPA Xchange
 - <https://community.nfpa.org/community/home-fire-sprinkler-initiative>
- Home Fire Sprinkler Fact Sheet from HFSC
 - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/HomeFireSprinklerFacts.pdf>
- Fire Sprinkler Display Banners
 - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-department-banners/>
- “Fast Facts About Home Fire Sprinklers”
 - http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/~/_media/fire%20sprinkler%20initiative/files/advocacy%20tools/fact%20sheets/sprinklers%20fast%20facts.pdf?la=en
- “Fire Sprinklers Protect Your Pets”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzSSBIL3C4A>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote home fire sprinklers.

- Twitter
 - Fire departments are quick, but not that quick. Add sprinklers to the list for your current or new home! #fastestwater @NFPA_FSI @HSFCorg
 - #FireSprinklers are designed to contain/extinguish a fire in its early stages and reduce fire damage by around 90%. #fastestwater @NFPA_FSI
 - Residential fire sprinklers can cut fire losses by 70% compared to properties w/out sprinklers! #fastestwater @NFPA_FSI @HSFCorg
- Facebook

- Fire departments are quick, but not that quick. Add sprinklers to the list of required amenities for your current or new home! #fastestwater
- Fire sprinklers save lives, reduce property loss and can even help cut homeowner insurance premiums. Sprinklers are highly effective because they react so quickly in a fire. They reduce the risk of death or injury from a fire because they dramatically reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced, allowing people the time to evacuate the home. Check out more at NFPA: <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>
- Fire sprinklers also help protect your pets from fire. If a fire were to break out in your home when you were away, any pets in your home would be in danger. Fire sprinklers would protect your pets as well as your home. For more info, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzSSBIL3C4A>

Educator Tip: The need to spread the word about fire sprinklers has never been more apparent. NFPA has organized a Fire Sprinkler Initiative advocacy toolkit for any member of the fire service that wants to get involved. You can download the toolkit here: <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools.aspx>

Included in the toolkit is:

- PowerPoint presentation on lightweight construction
- Sprinkler Myths & Facts handout
- Fire Sprinklers fast facts
- Sprinkler Media Guide
- “Making the Case for Sprinklers” infographic
- “Faces of Fire” video

The SFMO would also suggest getting in contact with your local legislator about the need for residential fire sprinklers. The move towards requiring fire sprinklers requires the entire fire service working together to make real change happen!

NFPA Messages:

Home Fire Sprinklers

2.1.1 Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers can reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire, allowing people more time to escape.

2.1.3 A home fire sprinkler can control or put out a fire with a fraction of the water that would be used by fire department hoses.

2.1.5 Home fire sprinklers can be installed in new or existing homes. If you are remodeling or building your home, install home fire sprinklers.

OCTOBER: WEEK 4—Halloween Safety

Overview: Special emphasis on Halloween safety includes safety with candles, decorations, and costumes. It is also important to stress fire safety in regard to haunted houses that may be operating in your area. Visit the State Fire Marshal's website to learn more about the safety requirements for haunted houses operating in Tennessee:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/FireCodesHauntedHousesMemo.pdf

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Halloween Fire Safety Tips:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/halloweensafetytips.pdf?la=en>
- “Halloween Safety Tips For Children” YouTube video:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf_GOOHkih0
- Report on structure fires that began from decorations:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/factsheets/decorationsfactsheet.pdf?la=en>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote Halloween Safety.

- Twitter
 - Have a safe Halloween! If you use candles, make sure to keep them well attended at all times. #SafeHalloween @TNCommerceInsur
 - Don't be scared to be safe! This Halloween, make sure nothing blocks your escape-- always keep exits clear of obstacles! @TNCommerceInsur
 - Flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are very flammable! Keep them away from all heat sources, incl light bulbs and heaters @TNCommerceInsur
- Facebook
 - Make Halloween safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips...<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/holidays/halloween/halloweensafetytipinforgraphic.jpg?as=1&iar=1&&h=465&w=600&la=en>
 - Need some safety tips for this Halloween? Let NFPA help!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf_GOOHkih0

Educator Tip: Share these tips with your community regarding Halloween costumes and decorations:

- When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long, trailing fabric. If you are making your own costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes into contact with heat or flame. If your children wear masks, make sure eye holes are large enough to allow unobstructed views.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.
- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a flame candle, use extreme caution and keep them well attended at all times. When

lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long fireplace matches or a long-nozzled candle lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters and such high-traffic areas as doorsteps, walkways and yards.

- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their faces with their hands, and rolling over and over.)
- Use flashlights or other battery-operated lights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- When attending a Halloween party, look for ways out of the home/venue and plan how you would get out in an emergency.
- If you have a Halloween party, check for cigarettes under furniture cushions and in areas where people might have smoked, before you go to bed.

NFPA Messages:

Candles

13.1.1 Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.

13.1.2 When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.

13.1.4 Keep candles at least 12 inches (30 centimeters) from anything that can burn.

NOVEMBER 2018

EVENTS:

- End of Daylight Saving Time, Sunday November 4, 2018 – “Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries”
- Thanksgiving Holiday
- *Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass

MONTHLY THEME: “A Fire-Safe Thanksgiving”

EDUCATOR TIP: Christmas tree vendors will start setting up this month. Ask the vendors in your community to include tags on their trees with fire safety tips. Your department can order a limited amount of these for free from the USFA (www.usfa.fema.gov) or print your own from NFPA (www.nfpa.org).

November 2018 Topics

Week 1 – “Close The Door!”

Week 2 – Electrical Hazards

Week 3 – Cooking Safety – Turkey Fryers

Week 4 – Home Heating

Holiday Travel Safety

Promote fire safety during holiday travel at Thanksgiving and the need for having an “escape plan” while staying in hotels, motels, and with family members. Also remind family members to have working smoke alarms and check smoke alarms on a regular basis. Thanksgiving is November 22nd, so remember fire safety while visiting friends and relatives and have a fire safe weekend.

Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries

Clocks will fall back to standard time again on Sunday, November 4, 2018, when daylight saving time ends. As folks are changing their clocks, remind them to change the batteries in their smoke alarms as well!

Prepare Local Vendors

In 2008, a store clerk was trampled to death as shoppers rushed through a retailer’s doors to take advantage of a “Black Friday” sale. Encourage retailers and store owners to take precautions to prevent worker injuries during sales events or at other events where large crowds may gather. Utilize the “Crowd Management Safety Guidelines for Retailers” provided by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) found here:

https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/Crowd_Control.pdf

National Fire Service History

- November 9, 1872 - Great Boston Fire (9 firefighter deaths)
- November 15, 1942 - Boston Wall Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- November 28, 1942 - Coconut Grove Nightclub Fire, Boston, MA (492 deaths)

- November 21, 1980 - MGM Grand Hotel Fire (85 deaths)
- November 29, 1988 - Kansas City Trailer Explosion (6 firefighter deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- November 22, 1900 - Columbia Tornado (25 deaths)
- November 17, 1908 - Lookout Mt Inn Burned
- November 3, 2001 - Chattanooga Complex Fire Disaster
- November 14, 2001 - TN Ridge Crest Fire Disaster, Pigeon Forge
- November 28, 2016 - Great Smoky Mountains Wildfires, Sevier County (14 deaths)

NOVEMBER: WEEK 1—“Close The Door!”

Overview: The “Close The Door!” campaign is unique to the SFMO and its goal is to encourage people to close the door whenever possible—whether they are going to bed at night or leaving the room in the event of a fire. Closing the door can stop the spread of fire in a home for hours at a time, leaving plenty of room to find alternate escape routes or shelter in place until help arrives. A door can be one of the best pieces of firefighting and lifesaving equipment.

The campaign works in conjunction with inter-connected smoke alarms, which are required in all new construction.



In 2018, the SFMO announced a partnership with Knox Box to help spread the “Close The Door!” message throughout the state. This partnership will be a comprehensive campaign involving local fire departments aimed at educating local residents about the importance of doors in fire prevention.

Check out our new “Close The Door!” website here: <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>

Resources: The following resources are available, courtesy of the SFMO and Knox Box:

- Official “Close The Door!” website:
 - <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>
- “Close The Door!” Informational Flyer
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Close_the_Door_Flyers.pdf

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to spread the “Close The Door!” message:

- Customizable press release
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Fire_Customizable_Press_Release.docx
- Twitter:
 - Did you know a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting equipment? Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
 - Simply closing the door behind you when escaping a fire can be the best decision you make. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
 - Fire doors prevent spread of smoke/flames in apts & other buildings. Never disable a fire door. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
 - Fire moves fast. A closed door may slow a fire & provide precious seconds needed for escape. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
- Facebook:
 - Did you know that a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and life-saving equipment in a home? It can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
 - Getting out of a burning building and calling 9-1-1 are crucial to survival during a fire, but closing doors during an escape can potentially limit the structural damage a fire can cause and possibly save lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>

- Keep fire doors closed. These specialized doors are used to compartmentalize a building and prevent the spread of smoke and flames. Never wedge, disable, or prop open fire doors in apartments or other buildings. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
- Three simple words may save lives during a fire: “Close the door!” A closed door can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>

Educator Tip: Build your own “Close The Door!” display! A door display can be a very effective tool for publicizing the “Close The Door!” message in number of ways. It can be used during open houses and fire house visits, in-school visits, public safety expos, fairs, or at fundraising events. You can also use this door display as a photo op for local legislators and other leaders. Be sure to use the official “Close The Door!” prop banners and logos found at <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>.

NFPA Messaging:

Installation of smoke alarms

1.2.2.1 It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with doors closed.

Home Fire Escape

4.1.10 A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

4.1.12 If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

4.2.4 Close doors behind you as you leave.

NOVEMBER: Week 2 – Electrical Hazards

Overview: Electricity helps make our lives easier but there are times when we can take its power and its potential for fire-related hazards for granted. In Tennessee, between 2006 and 2014, electrical distribution accounted for 3.0% of all structure fires and 8.8% of all structure fire deaths. The dangers of electrical hazards are always present and common hazards include overloaded electrical outlets, arcing, and extension cords.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Electrical Safety Tip Sheet
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~/-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/electrical_safety_tips.pdf
- “NFPA’s Electrical Safety PSA”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-wXyw0tvSA>
- “Electrical Safety Messages in American Sign Language”
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_7RFiv7_lw



Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote electrical safety.

- Twitter
 - Our favorite cartoon, Dan Doofus learns the hard way all about electrical safety, so you don’t have to: <https://youtu.be/l-wXyw0tvSA>
 - The leading areas of origin for electrical fires are the bedroom (14%), attic (12%), and kitchen (11%) <http://ow.ly/ZOdOf>
 - Safety tip: avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets. <http://ow.ly/ZOfkE>
 - Safety tip: avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time. <http://ow.ly/ZOgc3>
- Facebook
 - Nearly one third (31%) of home electrical fires began with ignition of wire or cable insulation. <http://ow.ly/ZOdOf> #FireFacts
 - Looking for an easy to read electrical safety checklist to use at home or in your community? Here’s one from #NFPA: <http://ow.ly/ZOdOf>
 - NFPA’s electrical fire safety messages can be viewed in American #SignLanguage with this video: https://youtu.be/x_7RFiv7_lw
 - For some good reminders, download & review @NFPA’s electrical fire safety tip sheet: <http://ow.ly/ZOgc3>
- Social Media share images:

-

Electrical Safety Tip

Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Don't use extension cords or plug strips.

#NESM



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

© NFPA 2017

Electrical Fast Fact

The leading areas of origin for electrical fires are the bedroom, attic, and kitchen.

#NESM



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

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Educator Tip: Organize in-home safety visits so your fire prevention team can identify any electrical hazards that may exist. These in-home safety visits can be crucial to preventing home fires. Use USFA's Home Safety Checklist as a guide when performing these visits. You can download a copy here:

- https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/home_safety_checklist.pdf

If you cannot schedule an in-home safety visit, encourage residents to check any extension cords or power strips for fraying or tearing. These potential hazards can arc at any moment and ignite nearby combustibles such as carpet, wallpaper, drapes, or other fabrics. Explain to residents the importance of checking for these hazards before a fire occurs.

NFPA Messaging:

Electrical

11.1.10 Check electrical cords often. Replace cracked, damaged, and loose electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.

11.1.11 Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched by furniture, under rugs and carpets, or across doorways.

11.1.13 Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician determine if additional circuits or wall outlets are needed.

11.1.14 Replace wall outlets if plugs do not fit snugly or the wall outlet does not accept plugs with one blade larger than the other.

NOVEMBER: Week 3 – Cooking Safety – Turkey Fryers

Overview: On Thanksgiving Day, many families customarily spend the holiday inside their home or the home of a friend or family member with the family dinner being the highlight of the day. Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment, at three times the average number per day.

- An estimated 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated average of 5 deaths, 25 injuries, and \$21 million in property loss.
- Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur most frequently in the afternoon hours from 12 to 4 p.m., peaking from noon to 1 p.m.

It is recommended that consumers utilize the oil-free models that are available or seek commercial professionals to prepare this entrée. Fried turkeys can be ordered from some supermarkets and restaurants during the holiday season.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Turkey Fryer Demonstration, presented by William Shatner & State Farm
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVixbf-bubs>
- 15 Turkey Fryer Safety Tips
 - <https://www.statefarm.com/simple-insights/residence/15-turkey-fryer-safety-tips>
- Turkey Fryer Safety Tips
 - <https://www.ifsa.org/sites/www.ifsa.org/files/assets/turkeyfryersafety.pdf>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote safety with turkey fryers.

- Twitter:
 - Never fry a frozen turkey! Always thaw your turkey if you are using a fryer. <http://bit.ly/2w21pLL>
 - Watch that bird! Never leave a turkey fryer unattended. <http://bit.ly/2w21pLL>
 - The @NFPA discourages the use of turkey fryers. But if you must fry your turkey this holiday, follow these safety guidelines: <http://bit.ly/2w21pLL>
 - Keep all children and pets away from the turkey fryer at all times. <http://bit.ly/2w21pLL>
- Facebook:
 - If you plan to deep-fry your holiday bird, be sure you know how to safely use the fryer, and take these precautions to protect yourself, your guests and your home: <http://bit.ly/2u0xdDc>
 - If you plan on frying a turkey this Thanksgiving, make sure to follow these key safety tips:
 - Place the fryer on a level surface, and avoid moving it once it's in use.
 - Make sure the turkey is thawed and dry before cooking. Ice or water that mixes into the hot oil can cause flare-ups.
 - Never leave fryers unattended.

- Click here for more: <http://bit.ly/2u0xDc>
- NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to look for grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants that sell deep fried turkeys, or consider a new type of “oil-less” turkey fryer. To find out more info, go here: <http://bit.ly/2w21pLL>

Educator Tip: Communicate to all residents that the NFPA and SFMO discourage the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that immerse the turkey in hot oil. However, if frying your own turkey is an absolute must, the following safety measures should be carefully followed:

- Turkey fryers must always be used outdoors and a safe distance from buildings and other flammable materials.
- Never use turkey fryers indoors or on a wooden deck.
- Make sure the fryer is used on a flat surface to prevent accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you do not watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer, even if it is not in use. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use.
- To prevent spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- The National Turkey Foundation recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of weight.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease or oil fire. If the fire is manageable, use your all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call the fire department by dialing 911.

NFPA Messaging:

Turkey Fryers

7.11.1 NFPA continues to believe that turkey fryers that use cooking oil, as currently designed, are not suitable for safe use by even a well-informed and careful consumer. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. In addition, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, and the destruction of property. NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants, for the preparation of the dish, or consider a new type of “oil-less” turkey fryer.

NOVEMBER: Week 4 – Home Heating

Overview: Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fire deaths nationally and the second leading known cause in Tennessee. Between 2006 and 2014, heating fires accounted for 6.8% of all structure fires and 10.1% of all structure fire deaths in Tennessee. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Heating Safety Tips
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating_safety.pdf?la=en
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Home Heating Safety” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS5xGfRO-Tw>
- Heating safety information in 9 other languages:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating/handouts-in-other-languages>
- “Home Heating Safety” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BqR4WNd3IA>
- “Heating Safety Messages in American Sign Language” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCtnLC6-JPg>
- Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment NFPA report
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/appliances-and-equipment/heating-equipment>
- U.S. Home Heating fires fact sheet
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/home_heating_fact_sheet.pdf?la=en

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote home heating safety.

- Customizable Press Release:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitnewsrelease.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Twitter
 - Nearly half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January & February. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/W26oD>
 - Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Please review @NFPA's safety information: <http://ow.ly/W26zO> #WinterSafety
 - Keep anything that can burn at least 3ft from heating equip (furnace, fireplace, wood stove, portable heater) <http://ow.ly/W1Lhl>
 - Give space heaters space! They account for 4 out of 5 home heating fire deaths: <http://ow.ly/W279j> #WinterSafety
 - With a few simple safety tips & precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS5xGfRO-Tw>

- Facebook
 - There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening. Check them out here: http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating_safety.pdf
 - Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for two of every five (40%) of home heating fires and four out of five (84%) of home heating fire deaths. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating>
 - Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (56%) of home heating fire deaths. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating>

Educator Tip: Before the weather turns too cold, send out a mass press release to any major media markets in your area regarding home heating safety. The message should reach as many people as possible and should include information on:

- Safety tips for heating your home
- Safety tips for using gas heaters
- Safety tips for heating with electricity
- Safety tips for using space heaters
- Safety tips for using wood stoves
- Chimney safety

To send out this information, you should use as many mediums as possible. Generate print messages for newspapers and audio messages for radio, as well as use any social media outlets as possible. To get started, check out these templates from NFPA:

- Op/Ed on Heating Safety
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitoped.rtf?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Letter To The Editor on Alternative Heating
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitlettertoeditoralternativeheating.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Example response to local fire caused by heating equipment
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitlettertoeditorresponsetolocalfire.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Sample article on wood-stoves:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitwoodstovearticle.docx?la=en>
- Sample article on portable space heaters:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitportableheatersarticle.docx?la=en>
- Sample article on keeping heaters “three feet away”:
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/holidays/put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/winter_freeze_three_feet_away.docx?la=en

NFPA Messaging:

Heating

9.1.3 All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.

9.1.10 Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

9.2.3 Purchase and use space heaters that have an automatic shut-off—if they tip over, they shut off.

9.2.4 Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them and their electrical cords away from things that can burn, high traffic areas, and doorways.

DECEMBER 2018

EVENTS:

- **SFMO Poster Contest Judging**
- **Christmas Holiday**
- **New Year's Eve**
- ***Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass**

MONTHLY THEME: “Holiday Fire Safety”

EDUCATOR TIP: Take copies of cooking fire safety tip sheets to your local food pantry to have them include in the bags of food they distribute. Also consider joining up with a program that delivers food baskets to people in need during the holidays. This could be a great way to get into the homes of the high-risk and check/install smoke alarms.

December 2018 Topics

Week 1 – Christmas Tree Safety

Week 2 – Candles and Holiday Décor Hazards

Week 3 – Holiday Cooking Safety

Week 4 – New Year's Celebration Safety: Places of Public Assembly/Fireworks

State Fire Marshal's Office Annual Poster Contest Judging

The local community school children have been creating posters based on the national fire prevention theme of the year. The posters have been judged on a local level and the winners from each participating community will now be turned into the SFMO for judging. The State contest will be held in December. All state winners and their families will get to attend the awards banquet held in 2019.

Holiday Fire Safety

Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 persons, injure 1,650 persons, and cause over \$990 million in damage according to the USFA. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty. Remember to promote fire safety during holiday travel at Christmas and the need for having an “escape plan” while at holiday parties or staying in hotels and/or with family members. Remind family members to have working smoke alarms and check smoke alarms on a regular basis.

National Fire Service History

- December 5, 1876 - NY Theater Fire (300 deaths)
- December 30, 1903 - Iroquois Theatre Fire (602 deaths)
- December 22, 1910 - Chicago Stockyard Fire (21 firefighter deaths)
- December 22, 1910 - PA Leather Factory Fire (13 firefighter deaths)
- December 7, 1946 - Atlanta Winecoff Hotel Disaster (119 deaths)
- December 1, 1958 - Our Lady of Angels School Fire (95 deaths)
- December 29, 1963 - Roosevelt Hotel Fire (22 deaths, including one firefighter)

- December 3, 1999 - Cold Storage Warehouse Fire (6 firefighter deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- December 9, 1911 - Briceville Coal Mine Explosion
- December 12, 1960 - Major Fire in Dayton, TN
- December 25, 1961 - Maxwell House Hotel Fire
- December 24, 1989 – Fire at highrise residence for the elderly kills 16 in Johnson City
- December 22, 2008 - TVA Kingston Ash Spill
- December 9, 2014 - Hardin Co. Firefighter Gus Losleben dies in the line of duty in a traffic collision in route to a structure fire.

DECEMBER: Week 1 – Christmas Tree Safety

Overview: Each year, fire departments nationwide respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. A heat source too close to the Christmas tree started over one-quarter (26%) of these fires. Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they occur, they are likely to be serious. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Christmas tree fact sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/christmastreefactsheet.pdf>
- Christmas tree safety tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>
- “Safe Christmas Tree Disposal Tips” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zu-522zE3E>
- “Be A Good Elf” YouTube video:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRsjqGZFjLU>



Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote Christmas tree safety.

- Twitter
 - We wish everyone a safe, fire-free holiday! Merry Christmas! <https://youtu.be/mRsjqGZFjLU> #FireSafety #merrychristmas
 - Need some Christmas cheer? Be a good elf! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRsjqGZFjLU> #merrychristmas #FireSafety #beagoodelf
 - Christmas trees are beautiful but can also be fire hazards. Here's what you should know: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zu-522zE3E>
- Facebook
 - As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>
 - One-quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems. Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur they are more likely to be serious. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>
 - Keep your tree and house safe! Make sure your Christmas tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
 - Keep your Christmas tree watered! Learn more info here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>

Educator Tip: Coordinate with any local Christmas tree vendors to deliver a consistent fire safety message to any tree buying customers. Print and make copies of NFPA's Christmas tree safety tip sheet (link here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>) to hand out at Christmas tree sale locations.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

- Picking the tree
 - If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
 - If you choose a live tree, select one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- Placing the tree
 - Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
 - Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Heat will dry out a tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
 - Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
 - Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
- Lighting the tree
 - Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
 - Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of strands to connect.
 - Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
 - Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Disposing of the tree
 - Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
 - Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.

DECEMBER: Week 2 – Candles and Holiday Décor Hazards

Overview: Nothing spreads cheer quite like holiday decorations, but care must be used to ensure your festive winter décor is fire-safe. Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holidays; December is the peak month for home candle fires. Consider the tips below when you bring out the holiday decorations this year. And remember, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Don't forget to practice your home escape plan!

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Home Structure Fires the Began With Decorations Fact Sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/decorationsfactsheet.pdf?la=en>
- Winter Holiday Safety Tip Sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/winterholidaysafety.pdf?la=en>
- “Be A Good Elf” YouTube video:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRsjqGZFjLU>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote candle and holiday décor hazards:

- Twitter
 - Be careful when decorating! Choose flame resistant decorations and keep them away from candles. @TNCommerceInsur <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
 - 2 of every 5 home decoration fires are started by candles! Decorate carefully this Christmas. @TNCommerceInsur <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
 - Xmas reminder: before going to bed, be sure to blow out all candles and turn off all holiday lights @TNCommerceInsur <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
- Facebook
 - Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together, but that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season. <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
 - Be careful with holiday decorations! Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant. Also keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn. <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
 - Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles! Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>

Educator Tip: Encourage residents to use flame-less candles in decorating their home. Many brands are designed to look like real flame but are much safer than actual flame candles. Most major retailers offer flame-less candles as an alternative to real candles. Putting together a social media campaign encouraging residents to use flame-less candles can be a good start to pushing this message.

NFPA Messaging:

Candles

13.1.1 Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.

13.1.4 Keep candles at least 12 inches (30 centimeters) from anything that can burn.

13.1.5 Never leave a burning candle unattended. Burning candles can start a fire.

13.2.1 Lit candles are used in some religious rites and ceremonies in the home. Candles should be used with care.

13.2.2 Lit candles should not be placed in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them, causing a fire.

DECEMBER: Week 3 – Holiday Cooking Safety

Overview: Christmas and Christmas Eve are two of the top three most dangerous days when it comes to cooking fires in the country. With the majority of people spending a significant amount of time in their kitchen preparing holiday meals during this time, it is important to remember basic cooking safety technique. Don't let your holidays be ruined by a kitchen fire!

One common cooking practice that is used around holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving is turkey frying. It is recommended that consumers utilize available oil-free models or purchase fried turkeys that have been prepared by commercial professionals. Fried turkeys can be ordered from some supermarkets and restaurants during the holiday season. Both the SFMO and NFPA discourage the use of turkey fryers in residences.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Keep An Eye On What You Fry!” Infographic
 - http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Cooking_Fire-Safety_NFPA.pdf
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Cooking Safety” YouTube Video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm6UMPP2z8I>
- Cooking Safety Checklist
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/cooking_safety_checklist.pdf?la=en
- “Keep Kids Away From Cooking Areas” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kuknDnhJHc>
- “Prevent Scalds and Burns” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P09mb-BFQ2E>
- “Watch What You Heat!” YouTube video
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=xEqRIqaiksY

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote holiday cooking safety:*

- Twitter:
 - Cooking fires increase 58% on Christmas day... don't let fire ruin your holiday! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Be alert when cooking! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of all kitchen fires. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Keep your cooking area clear of anything that can catch fire. Be safe this holiday! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- Facebook:
 - 42% of surveyed consumers say they have left the kitchen to talk or text on the phone, and 35% to use the computer to check email while food is cooking. If you tend to do a lot of cooking, invest in a second or third timer. They're an inexpensive way to stay safe while ensuring that your holiday dishes do not overcook. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking/safety-messages-about-cooking>
 - Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop. Also, stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking/safety-messages-about-cooking>

- Nearly half (45%) of consumers say they have left the room to watch television or listen to music while preparing food. Multi-tasking during the busy holiday season is tempting. If you succumb, it's important not to leave the stove or oven unattended. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking/safety-messages-about-cooking>

Educator Tip: Open houses can be a great way to show local residents how to cook safely. Set up a mock kitchen (using an old or fake stove) to demonstrate correct and incorrect cooking-related behaviors. Invite community members to participate in the demonstration. Some key behaviors to demonstrate:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep things that catch fire (paper and food products, curtains, etc.) away from the stovetop.
- Have a “kid-free” zone of at least 3 feet around the stove area.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.
- Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- If you have a stove fire, when in doubt, get out and call 9-1-1.

NFPA Messaging:

Cooking

7.1.1 To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.

7.2.2 Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.

7.3.1 Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains—away from your stovetop.

7.4.1.1 Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

DECEMBER: Week 4 – New Year’s Celebration Safety: Places of Public Assembly/Fireworks

Overview: Every day, millions of people wake up, go to work or school, and take part in social events. But every so often the unexpected happens: an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism, or some other disaster. Routines change drastically, and people are suddenly aware of how fragile their lives and routines can be. Each disaster can have lasting effects — people may be seriously injured or killed, and devastating and costly property damage can occur. People entering any public assembly building need to be prepared in case of an emergency.

In addition, New Year’s Eve can be an evening of celebration, often including fireworks. The NFPA discourages the use of fireworks.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Consumer Fireworks Safety Public Service Announcement” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcFulEwbITA>
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Public Assembly Safety” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lm7GRgE4wc>
- Safety in Places of Public Assembly Tip Sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/publicsafetyoccupanciessafetytips.pdf?la=en>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote New Year’s Celebration safety:

- Twitter
 - Celebrate safely! If you use fireworks, be sure to follow these important safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2vkNDWE>
 - After a #fireworks display, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over, they may still be active! <http://ow.ly/EnLA30cTnSo>
- Facebook
 - This NFPA public service announcement, "Safe? Sane?" urges people not to use consumer fireworks because they are too dangerous. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAEzZVPsP3Q>
 - Patrick and Marci Foy, and their daughter, Olivia, were injured while attending a family celebration, and were among more than a dozen people hurt. Hear them tell their story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIAB-NuZYfI>
 - Consumer fireworks include sparklers and firecrackers. Did you know that the tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause 3rd degree burns? www.nfpa.org/fireworks

Educator Tip: Offer to organize an official fireworks watch party, one where the display of fireworks is arranged and performed by a professional pyrotechnic company. These can be very successful in

bringing together the community for an evening of celebratory fireworks while also keeping everyone safe.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

If consumer fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks – this includes sparklers.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Wear eye protection.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never throw or point fireworks at people or animals.
- Only light fireworks outdoors on a smooth, flat surface away from homes, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water and a garden hose nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.

JANUARY 2019

EVENTS:

- **New Year's Day Holiday**
- **SFMO Poster Contest Awards Banquet**
- ***Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass**

MONTHLY THEME: "Stay Warm, Stay Safe"

EDUCATOR TIP: If your fire department's school education time is limited to just Fire Prevention Week, consider starting a "Lunch with a Firefighter" program. While providing quality mentoring, it can also be used to reinforce fire safety lessons without taking up additional class time.

January 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Wood Stoves/Alternative Heating

Week 2 – Winter Weather

Week 3 – Heating Hazards: Portable Heaters

Week 4 – Manufactured Home Safety

New Year's Day Resolutions

Promote "New Year Resolutions" to include fire prevention and safety activities.

SFMO Poster Contest & Public Educator of the Year Awards Event

Winners of the statewide fire prevention poster contest will gather with the SFMO for a banquet in their honor.

National Fire Service History

- January 11, 1820 - GA Fire Damages 463 houses
- January 13, 1908 - Rhodes Opera House Fire (170 deaths)
- January 21, 1924 - PA Refinery Explodes (7 firefighter deaths)
- January 7, 1950 - Iowa Mercy Hospital Fire (41 deaths)
- January 28, 1961 - Chicago Warehouse Wall Collapse (9 firefighter deaths)
- January 30, 2014 - Kentucky family dies in a home fire started by baseboard heater (9 deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- January 20, 2004 - Nursing home fire kills 5 in Maryville
- January 26, 2007 – Hwy 58 VFD volunteer firefighter died in residential collapse
- January 23, 2010 – Duplex fire kills 5 in Nashville
- January 29, 2012 - Cleveland Newly Weds Foods plant fire resulted in a loss exceeding 8 million dollars
- January 8, 2015 - Van Buren County Administrative Building fire destroys county records dating back to 1840 and causes an estimated \$10 million in damages

JANUARY: Week 1 – Wood Stoves/Alternative Heating

Overview: Heating is one of the primary known causes of fires during the cold months (December, January, and February) in Tennessee. From 2012-2015, heating was responsible for 7% of all structure fires and 11% of all structure fire deaths.

Alternative heating sources (wood stoves, oil stoves, space heaters, etc.) are common in Tennessee and are just as hazardous as central heating sources (electric, gas). Reaching residents that use alternative heating can be challenging—use the resources and tips below to help reach as many as possible.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Wood Stove Heating Safety Tips” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FBtLNxcYZE>
- Wood Stove Safety “Do’s & Don’ts”
 - <http://www.iii.org/article/wood-stove-safety>
- Fireplace safety from Chimney Safety Institute of America
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ifQzltGn0Q>
- Facts about Chimney Fires (with wood stove info)
 - <http://www.csia.org/chimneyfires.html>
- Wood Stove Safety Tips
 - <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/fire-safety/wood-stove-safety-tips.aspx>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote wood stove/alternative heating safety:

- Twitter
 - Heat with care! Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from your wood stove. @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Never extend a stove pipe through a wall or ceiling—this can cause a major fire hazard! @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Take care of your wood stove! Remove ashes regularly and inspect your stove for wear and tear. @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTn
 - Never burn anything other than wood in your wood stove. Other combustibles could damage your stove or give off toxic fumes! @TNCommercelnsur
 - Don’t “over fire” your stove! This can result in damage to your stove and home. Make only a fire that your stove can handle @TNCommercelnsur
- Facebook
 - Keep children and pets away when you have a fire burning in the stove, as the outer surfaces of the stove and flue pipe are very hot. And keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the stove. For more safety tips, go here: <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/fire-safety/wood-stove-safety-tips.aspx>
 - Never “over-fire” your stove! In other words, make a fire larger than the stove can handle. Over firing will result in flames entering the flue pipe or chimney, and can cause damage to the stove, the chimney connector or the chimney itself, which could result in a house fire. To avoid over firing, check the instruction manual or with the manufacturer.

For more safety tips, go here: <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/fire-safety/wood-stove-safety-tips.aspx>

- Some helpful wood stove safety tips: Always make sure there is enough clearance between the stove and combustible materials, including floors, walls and ceilings. Always place the stove on a noncombustible, fire resistant base. Only burn dry, well-seasoned wood. For more tips, go here: <http://www.iii.org/article/wood-stove-safety>
- More helpful wood stove safety tips: Never extend the stove pipe through a wall or ceiling. Don't connect the wood stove to a fireplace chimney unless the fireplace has been sealed off. For more safety tips, go to: <http://www.iii.org/article/wood-stove-safety>

Educator Tip: In-home safety visits can be a great way to track any potential hazards due to alternative heating. These in-home safety visits can be crucial to preventing home fires of any kind. Use USFA's Home Safety Checklist as a guide when performing these visits. You can download a copy here:

- https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/home_safety_checklist.pdf

Be sure to make note of which homes use alternative heating sources (wood stoves, chimneys, space heaters, etc.). If you cannot schedule an in-home safety visit, encourage residents to be familiar with wood stove safety using the resources above.

NFPA/ Messaging:

General Heating

9.1.3 All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.

Wood-Burning and Pellet Stoves

9.4.1 Have a qualified professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys following the manufacturer's instructions.

9.4.3 In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood.

Chimneys

9.5.5 Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

JANUARY: Week 2 – Winter Weather

Overview: The threat of winter fires is real. Use these national statistics to help citizens understand the severity and prevalence of winter fires.

- Although at its peak in December, residential building fire incidence is collectively highest in the 3 winter months of January, February, and March.
- 890 people die in winter home fires each year.
- \$2 billion in property loss occurs from winter home fires.
- 67% of winter fires occur in one- and two-family homes.
- Winter home fires account for only 8% of the total number of fires in the U.S., but result in 30% of all fire deaths.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.
- 5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Winter fire safety outreach materials from USFA
 - <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html>
- “Put A Freeze on Winter Fires” Infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~-/media/images/public-education/by-topic/winter-freeze/winterfreezeinfographic.jpg>
- “Be Fire Smart” infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~-/media/images/public-education/by-topic/winter-freeze/winterfreezeelectricalinfographic.jpg>
- Home fires involving heating equipment
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/appliances-and-equipment/heating-equipment>
- “Home heating advice from NFPA – Put a Freeze on Winter Fires” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqJQfteHPCK>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote winter weather safety:

- Twitter
 - Stay warm, stay safe! January is one of the deadliest months for home fires in TN. Safety tips here: <http://ow.ly/W26oD>
 - Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January & February. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/W26oD>
 - Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Please review @NFPA's safety information: <http://ow.ly/W26zO> #WinterSafety
- Facebook
 - Stay warm, stay safe! Keep any combustible material at least 3 feet from any heating equipment. Also have heating equipment & chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional. <http://ow.ly/W266z> #WinterSafety

- Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January & February. Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Find more tips here: <http://ow.ly/W26zO>
- Did you know that heating equipment is involved in one in every six reported home fires (and one in every five home fire deaths)? For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/winter-freeze/winterfreezeinfographic.jpg>

Educator Tip: Help spread the word about the deadliness of fires in the winter months, especially these facts:

- January is the deadliest month for fires. 15% of all fire deaths occur in January.
- The 2nd week of January is the deadliest week, nearly twice as deadly as the average week.
- Heating and cooking are the leading causes of fatal fires in January (40%).
- There are 24 home fires every day in January, one per hour.
- In January, there is an increase in the number of fire deaths in mobile or manufactured homes. 23% of all fire deaths in January occur in mobile or manufactured homes compared to 16% for all months.

Also help by sharing this YouTube video on social media, about the deadliness of winter fires:

<https://youtu.be/UDQH3BlrA9k>

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

SOME TYPES OF FIRE RELATED HAZARDS PRESENT DURING AND AFTER A WINTER STORM:

1. Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards.
2. Damaged or downed utility lines can present a fire and life safety hazard.
3. Water damaged appliances and utilities can be electrically charged.
4. Frozen water pipes can burst and cause safety hazards.
5. Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers, and leaking vehicle gas tanks may explode or ignite.
6. Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be hazardous.
7. Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid, and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area.
8. If your home has sustained flood or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power.
9. Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
10. Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.
11. Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.
12. Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage.
13. Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door(s) open.
14. Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion.
15. Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by a professional.
16. Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage.
17. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year.
18. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home.

19. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly. All batteries should be replaced with new ones at least once a year.
20. If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of debris for easy access by the fire department.

JANUARY: Week 3 – Heating Hazards; Portable Heaters

Overview: Tennessee suffered 20 deaths from portable heater fires from 2013-2017. An average of 63 portable heating fires and \$2.30 million dollars in property loss are reported each year in Tennessee.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Electric Portable Space Heater Safety:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>
- “Space Heater Virtual Demonstration” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIFxWd7DSsg>
- “Space Heater Fire Danger” YouTube video via City of San Diego
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxUqP2HxYUw>
- “Nationwide Insurance Space Heater Fire” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfKWSyfcQa8>
- “PSA – Space Heater Safety” YouTube video via Long Beach City CA
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYowLAXrbng>
- Heating Safety Tip Sheet
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating_safety.pdf
- “Heating Safety Messages in American Sign Language” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCtnLC6-JPg>
- Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment NFPA report
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/appliances-and-equipment/heating-equipment>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote portable heater safety:

- Customizable Press Release
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitalternativeheatingnewsrelease.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Twitter
 - 2 of every 5 home heating fires were caused by portable heaters. Check out these safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2v2aTX3> @TNCommerceInsur
 - Always have a 3-foot safe zone around all space heaters. Check here for more safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2v2aTX3> @TNCommerceInsur
 - Never use an extension cord with portable space heaters! Always follow these safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2v2aTX3> @TNCommerceInsur
 - Stay warm, stay safe! Follow these heating safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2v2aTX3> @TNCommerceInsur
- Facebook
 - Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for two of every five (40%) of home heating fires and four out of five (84%) of home heating fire deaths. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>
 - Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating

fires and accounted for more than half (56%) of home heating fire deaths. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>

- Portable heaters, such as electric space heaters, can be very dangerous! Take a look at this safety video from the City of San Diego that demonstrates how quickly a portable heater can set your home on fire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxUqP2HxYUw>
- Portable heaters, such as electric space heaters, can be very dangerous! Take a look at this safety video from Long Beach City CA that demonstrates how quickly a portable heater can set your home on fire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYowLAXrbng>
- If you use portable space heaters, make sure to follow these safety tips. They may save your life! <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>

Educator Tip: NFPA has a great resource for spreading messages about heating safety using their “Hot Ideas: How To Get Heating Safety Messages Out To Your Community” toolkit. Included in the toolkit are suggestions on:

- How to hold an open house
- How to involve your audience
- How to reach the media/press
- How to go door-to-door

Access the full toolkit by going here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkithotideas.pdf?la=en>

NFPA/ Messaging:

Heating.

9.1.3 All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.

Portable Space Heaters

9.2.1 Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

9.2.3 Purchase and use space heaters that have an automatic shut-off—if they tip over, they shut off.

9.2.4 Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them and their electrical cords away from things that can burn, high traffic areas, and doorways.

9.2.5 Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.

JANUARY: Week 4 – Manufactured Home Safety

Overview: Manufactured homes are transportable structures that are fixed to a chassis and specifically designed to be towed to a residential site. They are different from modular or prefabricated homes, which are factory-built and then towed in sections to be installed at a permanent location. State law does not define prefabricated homes.

The federal government regulates the construction of manufactured housing. Since 1976, manufactured homes have been required to comply with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) manufactured housing construction and safety standards, which cover a wide range of safety requirements, including fire safety. Post-1976 manufactured homes bear a label certifying compliance with these standards.

The HUD standard has been enhanced over the years, and the HUD "Final Rule" for smoke alarms in manufactured homes is largely based upon NFPA 501. Today, new construction of manufactured housing is required to contain, among other provisions:

- Factory installed hard wired or 10 year battery source, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back-up (including alarms inside or immediately adjacent to all rooms designated as sleeping areas, top of the stairs and on the basement ceiling near the stairs); and
- Provisions for special devices for hearing and visually impaired persons.

NFPA's national fire data indicate that manufactured homes built to HUD standards (post-1976 construction) have a much lower risk of death and a significantly reduced risk of injury if fire occurs compared to pre-Standard manufactured homes. However, despite the federal requirements for factory-installed smoke alarms, 38% of 1999 fires in post-HUD Standard manufactured homes were reported as having no smoke alarms present. Since the homes are required to be sold with installed or readily installable smoke alarms, this suggests that detection devices are being removed by occupants.



While manufactured homes are no more prone to fire than homes built on site, the manufactured home fire can be severe. All residential homes can be better protected utilizing built-in fire protection systems such as fire sprinklers. These not only save lives, but property as well.

A fire in a home located in a rural area has a greater chance of becoming a “total loss fire” because of the increased amount of time needed for firefighters to reach the home. Lack of working smoke alarms is also a factor often noted in fatal manufactured home fires.

If planning to buy or rent a manufactured home, make sure you keep fire safety in mind. By following a few tips and knowing the facts and safety requirements for manufactured homes, you can help keep your family safe.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Fire safety in manufactured homes
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/fire-safety-in-manufactured-homes>
- SFMO information on Manufactured Housing and Modular Buildings
 - <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/sections-programs/fire-manufactured-housing.html>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote manufactured home safety:*

- Twitter
 - Buying a manufactured home? Make sure it has working smoke alarms! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Two steps to having a safe manufactured home: 1: working smoke alarms, 2: have an escape plan! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - If using space heaters in a manufactured home, make sure they are 3 feet away from anything that can burn! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- Facebook
 - When buying a manufactured home, make sure you are buying a HUD-certified home. This means the home was built after 1976 and bears the HUD label certifying compliance with safety standards. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/fire-safety-in-manufactured-homes>
 - Always make sure your manufactured home has working smoke alarms in every sleeping area. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/fire-safety-in-manufactured-homes>
 - Plan your escape! Know ahead of time how you will get out if you have a fire in your manufactured home. Develop an escape plan and have an alternate exit out of every room. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/fire-safety-in-manufactured-homes>

Educator Tip: Encourage your residents to follow these safety tips when considering a manufactured home:

- Choose a manufactured home built after June 15, 1976, that has the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) label certifying that the home meets the minimum safety standards.
- Keep gasoline, charcoal lighter and other flammable liquids locked in an outdoor shed. Never store items under your manufactured home. Store firewood away from the home.
- Install skirting material to keep leaves and other debris and combustible items from blowing under your manufactured home where it could easily catch fire and spread into the home.
- Be sure your manufactured home has enough smoke alarms. If your home does not have smoke alarms in or near every sleeping room and in or near the family/living area(s), immediately install new alarms and fresh batteries to protect these rooms. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

- Have a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place. Make sure all ways out of the home are cleared of clutter and easy to use. Practice your fire escape plan at least twice a year.
- If smoke alarms sound when cooking, consider moving the alarm further from the kitchen area or install a photoelectric type alarm which is less sensitive to cooking.
- Consider having a licensed electrician inspect the electrical system in your manufactured home to be sure it is safe and meets applicable National Electrical Code® requirements.
- Never add too many plugs to outlets, extension cords or electrical circuits. If the circuit breaker trips or fuses blow, call a licensed electrician to check your system.
- Have smokers smoke outside the home. Provide large, non-tip ashtrays and empty them frequently. Douse butts with water before throwing them away.
- Do not smoke in bed or in a chair in which you are prone to fall asleep.
- Keep space heaters and candles at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Turn off portable space heaters and blow out candles before falling asleep or when leaving a room.
- When considering a new manufactured home, ask if residential sprinklers are available as an option.

For additional information on manufactured homes, contact the Tennessee Housing Association at 615-256-4733.

NFPA Messaging:

See the following resource: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/fire-safety-in-manufactured-homes>

FEBRUARY 2019

EVENTS:

- **National Burn Awareness Week (February 4-10)**
<http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>
- **Get Alarmed, TN Events: one (1) canvass**

MONTHLY THEME: “Burn Awareness & Prevention”

EDUCATOR TIP: Want to offer fire safety programs to homeschoolers in your community? Try starting with the local education agency (LEA) home school coordinator for your area:
https://npidb.org/organizations/agencies/local-education-agency-lea_251300000x/tn/

February 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Preventing Scalds & Burns

Week 2 – Candle with Care

Week 3 – Kitchen Grease Fire Safety

Week 4 – Fire Safety for Children

National Fire Service History

- February 5, 1898 - Boston Building Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- February 7, 1904 - Great Baltimore Fire
- February 13, 1909 - WI Wall Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- February 3, 1939 - NY Building Collapse (9 firefighter deaths)
- February 16, 1955 - Baltimore Building Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- February 14, 1958 - NY Building Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- February 26, 1993 - World Trade Center Bombing
- February 20, 2003 - RI Station Nightclub Fire (100 deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- February 9, 1892 - Memphis Conflagration
- February 22, 1978 - Waverly Train Derailment & Explosion
- February 22, 2014 - Fire at a manufacturer of plastic refrigerator components, construction application and consumer products in Gallatin caused \$5,075,000 worth of damage.
- February 12, 2018 – Firefighter Jason Dickey killed in Lawrenceburg, TN after a structural collapse at a residential fire.

FEBRUARY: Week 1 – Preventing Scalds & Burns

Overview: A scald injury can happen at any age. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities are especially at risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee, and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

Most “fire-related injuries” are burns. In fact, approximately every 60 seconds someone in the U.S. sustains a burn injury serious enough to require treatment. Increased awareness of the dangers can prevent injuries. Keep your family safe by learning how to prevent burns.

National Burn Awareness Week is observed the first full week in February, and it is designed to provide an opportunity for burn, fire, and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Scald Prevention Safety Tips
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/scaldprevention.pdf?la=en>
- “Burn care specialists detail the realities of home fires” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yr3Cf8H4OwE>
- “Sort it out” printable kids activity
 - <http://sparkyschoolhouse.org/app/uploads/2015/05/Sorting.pdf>
- National Burn Awareness Week (2018) Fact Sheet
 - <http://ameriburn.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/nbaw-fact-sheet-rev.pdf>
- Various resources on Burn Awareness Week from ABA:
 - <http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>
- “Hot, Not Hot, or Sometimes Hot” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwQwq6BPh5s>
- “The Fire Challenge: A Conversation with Parents & Caretakers” lesson
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/lesson-plans/lessonfirechallenge.pdf?la=en>
- Various community activity ideas on burn awareness from NFPA:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/burn-awareness/burnawarenesscommunityideas.pdf?la=en>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote scald and burn safety.*

- Twitter:
 - Scalds = 2nd leading cause of all burn injuries. Be careful around hot liquids like bath water, coffee, and microwaved soup! @TNCommercelnsur
 - Always have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around stoves/areas where hot food/drink is prepared or carried. @TNCommercelnsur
 - Not all burns are caused by fire! Cleaners, weed killers, and pool chemicals can cause burns. Keep these locked away/out of reach! #NBAW2019
 - Common, everyday items like candles, matches, and lighters can cause devastating injuries! Be safe. @TNCommercelnsur #NBAW2019
 - Not all burns are caused by fire! Household items like irons, hair straighteners, and stoves can cause devastating burn injuries. #NBAW2019
- Facebook
 - Scalds = 2nd leading cause of all burn injuries. Be careful around hot liquids like bath water, coffee, and microwaved soup! To learn more, go here:

<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/scaldprevention.pdf?la=en>

- Always have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around stoves/areas where hot food/drink is prepared or carried. To learn more, go here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/scaldprevention.pdf?la=en>
- Not all burns are caused by fire! They can also be caused by common household products like cleaners, weed killers, and pool chemicals. Keep these locked away and out of reach of children! For more information, please visit: <http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>
- Not all burns are caused by fire! Did you know that scald burns (caused by hot liquids or steam) are the number one cause of burn injury for children under the age of five? For scald prevention tips, visit www.flashsplash.org
- Not all burns are caused by fire! Electricity can cause burns when a plugged-in appliance comes into contact with water, the power supply is not shut down before making home repairs, or if a child bites on electrical cords. Keep your family safe from electrical burns. For more info, go here: <http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>

Educator Tip: “Learn Not To Burn” is a comprehensive burn awareness program aimed at teaching kids about the importance of burn/fire safety. The program reaches children (preschool to 2nd grade) using proven educational strategies that incorporate our philosophy of teaching positive, practical fire safety messaging. To access the full “Learn Not To Burn” program, go here:

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/learn-not-to-burn>

NFPA/ Messaging:

Preventing Scalds and Burns in the Kitchen

8.1.1 Teach children that hot things burn.

8.1.3 Turn pot handles away from the stove’s edge.

Hot Tap Water and Scald Burns

8.2.1 Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius).

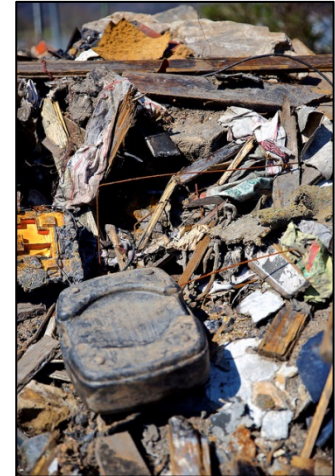
8.2.6 Before placing a child in the bath or getting into the tub yourself, test the water.

Treatment of Burns

8.3.1 Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.

FEBRUARY: Week 2 – Candle With Care

Overview: Candles may be pretty to look at, but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn. Roughly one-third of home candle fires started in the bedroom. Between 2013 and 2017 in Tennessee, candle fires caused an average of 75 structure fires per year, over \$2.49 million of property and contents loss per year, and a total of 8 civilian deaths.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Candle Safety Tips
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~/-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/candlesafetytips.pdf>
- Religious Candle Safety Tips
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~/-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/religious_candles_safety_tips.pdf
- Home Candle Fires NFPA report
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/candles>
- Fire Safety & Candles from National Candle Association
 - <http://candles.org/fire-safety-candles/>
- “Candle Safety Tips” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xOyMBJ-b44>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote candle safety.

- Twitter
 - On average, 25 home candle fires are reported each day. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/XR6vj> #FireFacts
 - The top 3 days for home candle fires are New Year’s Day, Christmas, and New Year’s Eve. <http://ow.ly/XR6vj> #FireFacts
 - Safety tip: Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. <http://ow.ly/XR8DP>
 - Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles! <http://ow.ly/XR9E4>
 - Lit candles are used in religious services, places of worship & at home. Tips on staying safe with religious candles: <http://ow.ly/XR9E4>
- Facebook
 - Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn. Find out more here: <http://ow.ly/XR6vj>
 - Candle with care! Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep. For more info, go here: <http://ow.ly/XR6vj>
 - Always use candle holders that are sturdy and won’t tip over easily. Make sure to keep candles on a sturdy, uncluttered surface, and at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. <http://ow.ly/XR6vj>

- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in a home! Go here for more info:
<http://ow.ly/XR6vj>

Educator Tip: Partner with a local grocery or retail store on a “candle exchange” program, where residents can exchange open flame candles for a discount on battery-operated flameless candles or flashlights. Obtaining the partnership with the store may be challenging, however most stores will agree to this sort of partnership if the fire department is willing to advertise for the store. Make the partnership into a community event, where residents can meet firefighters and take a picture with a fire truck if they exchange a candle for a flameless candle. While the number of actual “candle exchanges” may be fairly low, the idea is to generate awareness about the dangers of having real flame candles in homes.

NFPA/ Messaging:

General Candle Safety

13.1.1 Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.

13.1.2 When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.

13.1.4 Keep candles at least 12 inches (30 centimeters) from anything that can burn.

13.1.5 Never leave a burning candle unattended. Burning candles can start a fire.

FEBRUARY: Week 3 – Kitchen Grease Fire Safety

Overview: Unattended cooking is one of the leading contributing factors for cooking fires. In addition, grease, fat, or butter is one of the leading items first ignited for all cooking fires. Out of 9,558 cooking fires between 2013 and 2017, 8.8% had either grease or oil as the first item ignited.

It is important for residents to maintain a watchful eye when cooking, but it is also important to maintain a clean cooking area. Grease, fat, and oil build up around a stove can lead to home fires.

The best way to avoid the devastation that grease fires can cause is to prevent them from happening in the first place. Always stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, and broiling and keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of three feet around the stove.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Cooking Safety tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/cookingsafety.pdf?la=en>
- “Putting out kitchen grease fires” YouTube video
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0RgdYkc_Po
- Prevent Kitchen Fires
 - https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/kitchen_fires_flyer.pdf
- Kitchen Safety: How to put out a grease fire (blog post)
 - <http://www.thekitchn.com/kitchen-safety-how-to-put-out-138233>
- How To Put Out A Grease Fire
 - <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-put-out-a-grease-fire/>
- Oven and Stove Top Safety
 - <http://www.preventfire.com/adults/oven-and-stove-top-safety.html>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote kitchen grease safety.

- Customizable press release
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/response_to_cooking_fire_letter.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/open_house.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en
- Twitter
 - Never use water to put out a grease fire! Cover with a pan or simply get out and call 911! @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Best way to fight a grease fire? Prevent it from happening! Always stay in kitchen when cooking + keep stove clean! @TNCommercelnsur
 - Unattended cooking + grease or fat around a cooking eye = dangerous combination. Stay safe in the kitchen! @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
- Facebook
 - If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding a lid over the pan. DON'T use water to put out a grease fire. For more cooking safety tips, go

here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking/safety-messages-about-cooking>

- If you have a cooking fire, when in doubt, just get out and call 9-1-1. For more safety tips, visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking/safety-messages-about-cooking>
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove. For more cooking safety tips, visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/cooking/safety-messages-about-cooking>

Educator Tip: Contact your local TV or radio news station to propose a segment on cooking safety and cooking equipment fires. Most media outlets have requirements on public service announcements, in addition to needing content on slow news days. A quick 3-4 minute segment on cooking safety would be a great way to reach your residents. The most important cooking safety elements to cover would be:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, oven, and burners clean.
- Keep a 3-foot (1 meter) kid-free (and combustible-free) zone around your cooking area.
- If you have a cooking fire, when in doubt, just get out and call the fire department.
- If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

7.4.1.1 Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

7.4.1.2 Never discharge a portable fire extinguisher into a grease fire because it will spread the fire.

7.4.3 When in doubt, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. After you leave, call 9-1-1 or the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's telephone.

FEBRUARY: Week 4 – Fire Safety for Children

Overview: One of the primary causes of residential fire deaths and injuries for children under 10 is playing with a heat source, which includes lighters and matches. Between 2013 and 2017, 410 fires in which playing with a heat source was a contributing factor were reported by Tennessee fire departments. Fires resulting from playing with a heat source caused 6 civilian deaths, 13 civilian injuries, and \$4,986,815 million in property damage in that time.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Children and fire safety tips
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters/children-and-fire-safety-tips>
- “Young Firesetters” safety tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/youngfiresettertipsheet.pdf?la=en>
- Young Fire Setters YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqrlUYTKYq8>
- Playing with fire – NFPA report
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/arson-and-juvenile-firesetting/children-playing-with-fire>
- Misuse of fire
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters/misuse-of-fire>
- “The Fire Challenge”: A conversation with parents & caretakers lesson
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/lesson-plans/lessonfirechallenge.pdf?la=en>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote fire safety for children:

- Twitter
 - Stop fire-setting before it happens! Store matches/lighters out of children's reach, preferably in a locked cabinet. @TNCommerceInsur
 - Stop fire-setting before it happens! Never leave matches/lighters where children may be unsupervised. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Want some helpful tips to prevent child fire-setting? Go here: <http://bit.ly/2hDrDAU> @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Child fire-setting leads to over \$1 million in property damage every yr in TN. Prevention tips: <http://bit.ly/2hDrDAU> @TNCommerceInsur
- Facebook
 - Firestarting happens when children begin to experiment with fire using matches and lighters. Many fires happen when young children are left alone, even for a short period of time, and have access to matches and lighters. Parents must have clear rules and consequences about fire misuse. For more tips, go here: <http://bit.ly/2hDrDAU>
 - Children playing with fire cause hundreds of deaths and injuries each year. Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing

with matches and lighters, and are most likely to die in them. For more tips, go here: <http://bit.ly/2hDrDAU>

- If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unusually fascinated with fire, get help. Your local fire department, school, or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts who know how to teach children about fire in an appropriate way. For more information, go here: <http://bit.ly/2hDrDAU>

Educator Tip: Host a child safety open night at your fire department and invite the public. In addition to covering popular non-fire related topics such as car seat installation and/or bicycle safety, encourage your residents to follow these child-related fire safety tips in their home:

- Supervise young children closely. Do not leave them alone, even for short periods of time.
- Keep matches and lighters in a locked drawer or cabinet, high out of the reach of children.
- Purchase and use only child-resistant lighters. Lighters that look like toys can confuse children and cause fires, injuries, and death and are prohibited in Tennessee. Do not buy or use them.
- Teach young children to never touch matches and lighters and to tell a grownup if they find them.
- Take the mystery out of fire by teaching children that fire is a tool for adults, not a toy for children. Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children; they may try to do the same.
- Check under beds and in closets for burned matches, evidence your child might be playing with fire.
- Develop a home fire escape plan, practice it with your children, and designate a safe meeting place outside your residence.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters but to get out quickly and call for help from another location.
- Show children how to crawl on the floor below smoke, to get out of the home, and stay out.
- Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Familiarize children with the sound of smoke alarms. Test smoke alarms each month and replace their batteries according to manufacturer's instructions. Daylight saving time changes, in the fall and spring, are great times to replace smoke alarm batteries if they are not 10-year batteries.
- Replace any smoke alarm that is at least 10 years old.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Matches and Lighters

14.1.1 Keep matches, lighters, and novelty lighters high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

14.1.2 Purchase and use only child resistant lighters.

14.1.4 Teach young children to tell a grownup when they find matches or lighters and to never touch matches or lighters.

In 2008, Tennessee banned the sale of novelty lighters in the state. These lighters usually resemble cartoon characters, toys, guns, watches, musical instruments, and animals, and often include entertaining audio and visual effects. They pose a serious fire hazard, especially in the hands of children who mistake them for toys. Toy-like or novelty lighters have been responsible for injuries, deaths, and accidents across the nation.

MARCH 2019

EVENTS:

- **Beginning of Daylight Saving Time, Sunday, March 10, 2019**
- ***Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass**

MONTHLY THEME: “Change your Clock/Change your Batteries”

March 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Smoke Alarms: Change your Clock, Change your Battery/9 volt battery safety

Week 2 – “Get Out, Stay Out”

Week 3 – Medical Oxygen and Fire

Week 4 – Home Escape Planning/”Close the Door!”

National Fire Service History

- March 17, 1890 - Bldg Collapse, IL (13 firefighter deaths)
- March 4, 1908 - School Fire - OH (174 deaths)
- March 25, 1911 - Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, NY (145 deaths)
- March 18, 1937 - School Explosion, TX (296 deaths)
- March 10, 1946 - Strand Theater Fire, MA (13 firefighter deaths)
- March 5, 1949 - Floor Collapse, WV (7 firefighter deaths)
- March 26, 2014 - Boston Brownstone Fire (2 firefighter deaths)

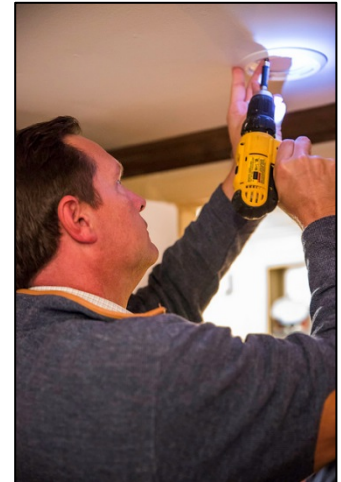
Tennessee Specific History

- March 22, 1916 - Great Nashville Fire
- March 21, 1988 - Oakville Nursing Home Fire Kills 3 in Memphis, TN
- March 1, 2002 - Jefferson City FF Dies in House Fire
- March 14, 2008 - Major Downtown Fire in Baxter, TN
- March 17, 2013 - Black Bear Ridge Resort Conflagration Destroys 59 Cabins in Sevier County
- March 27, 2013 - Fire sprinkler system activated and contained a fire at the Carey Counseling Center in rural Carroll County preventing death, injury, and major property damage
- March 29, 2018 – Fire in Memphis home kills 5, including 3 children

MARCH: Week 1 – Smoke Alarms: Change your Clock, Change your Battery/9 volt battery safety

Overview: The State Fire Marshal’s Office wants all Tennesseans to have working smoke alarms in their homes. Through the *Get Alarmed, TN* program, the SFMO aims to supply local fire departments with 10-year battery smoke alarms to install for members of their community. See supplemental information section for more details.

Since many residents have smoke alarms with a 9-volt backup battery, the “change your clock, change your battery” campaign is a tradition revolving around the spring daylight savings time change. The message: when you change your clocks one hour ahead in the spring (this year on March 10th) also change the 9-volt batteries in your smoke alarm. Note: there are some dangers inherent in 9-volt batteries themselves. See supplemental information section for more details on this.

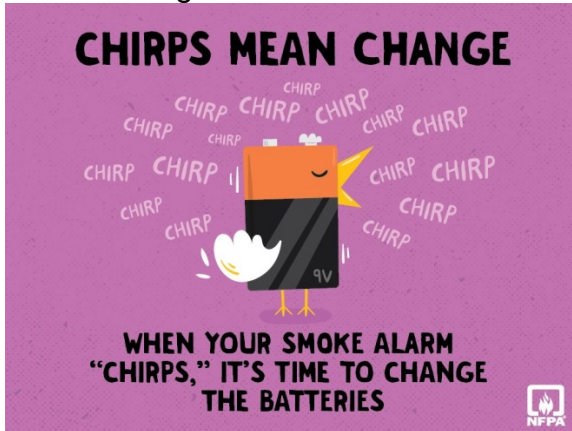


Resources: The following resources are available:

- NFPA encourages testing smoke alarms as Daylight Saving Time begins
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/news-and-media/press-room/news-releases/2014/nfpa-encourages-testing-smoke-alarms-as-daylight-saving-time-begins>
- Smoke Alarms at Home tip-sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms/safety-messages-about-smoke-alarms>
- Smoke Alarm infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/smoke-alarm-infographic.pdf?la=en>
- “Chirps Mean Change” social media image
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/memechirpsmeanchange.jpg?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- “Test Your Smoke Alarms!” cartoon image
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/sergeant-alarm.jpg?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Calendar tear-sheet for families:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw11/fpw2011tearcalendar.pdf?la=en>
- “Fire Safety Video for Kids with SteveSongs & Sparky The Fire Dog”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OVHhkqZf8>
- “Home Smoke Alarm Basics” YouTube Video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LQ6uhXAzvk>
- “Safety Tips: Smoke Alarm” YouTube Video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCkHtCLpLbY>
- SFMO Commercial (Smoke Alarms)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REIS6-NZovY>
- “Kix Brooks/Life Savers Ad”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ4SiUxPuSw>
- SFMO *Get Alarmed, TN* Program
 - <http://tn.gov/commerce/article/fire-get-alarmed>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote smoke alarm safety.

- Customizable press releases and other print media tools:
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/community-tool-kits/keeping-your-community-safe-and-sound>
- Twitter
 - Change your clock, change your battery! Smoke alarms save lives, make sure they have working batteries. @TNCommercelnsur



- Are you sleeping soundly? Make sure you have working smoke alarms in every bedroom! @TNCommercelnsur



- Don't forget to change your batteries when you change your clock! Always test your smoke alarms once a month. @TNCommercelnsur
- What is that chirp you hear? It's probably your smoke alarm telling you to change its battery! Listen to it! @TNCommercelnsur
- Want smoke alarms with no hassle? Go with 10-year worry free smoke alarms—no batteries to change! @TNCommercelnsur
- *Get Alarmed, TN!* The SFMO has been installing smoke alarms for the last five years—join us! @TNCommercelnsur
- Facebook
 - Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly. For more safety tips, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms>

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For more safety tips go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms>
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working. Also, replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. For more safety tips, go here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms>

Educator Tip: Sign up to participate in the SFMO's *Get Alarmed, TN* program. This state-wide fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program started in 2012 and has distributed over 150,000 smoke alarms to participating fire departments to date. To get started, go to <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/get-alarmed-tn.html> and look under "Organization Administrators Toolbox" for information on how to get your department on board.

For more information, please contact Alex Daugherty (Alex.Daugherty@TN.gov).

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Installation

1.2.1 Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection.

Testing and Maintenance

1.3.1 Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.

Battery Replacement

1.5.2 For smoke alarms that don't have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Smoke Alarm Replacement

1.6.1 Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

MARCH: Week 2 – “Get Out, Stay Out”

Overview: The safest option for anyone inside a building that is on fire is to get out immediately and call 9-1-1. It is also very important to stay out once you get out. Too many times, responding fire departments in Tennessee have seen injury or death occur because the resident re-entered a building that was on fire, either in attempt to rescue another person or to recover personal items. Between 2013 and 2017, 19 residents in Tennessee died in house fires due to re-entering the structure after escape.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Get Out and Stay Alive” tips from USFA
 - https://www.judsonu.edu/uploadedFiles/Judson_Public/Campus_Life/Campus_Services/Campus_Safety/Fire_Safety/gettingout.pdf
- Basic fire escape planning
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/basic-fire-escape-planning>
- “Escape Planning” tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
- Create A Home Escape Plan
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote the “Get Out, Stay Out” message:

- Twitter
 - Get out, stay out! Never re-enter a building that’s on fire. @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Smoke alarm goes off due to a fire? Get out immediately and call 9-1-1. Never go back inside a burning building @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Does everyone in your house know two ways out of every room? For more fire safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2cTFJKw> @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Once you get out, stay out! Stay at your meeting place until the fire dept arrives. For more tips: <http://bit.ly/2cTFJKw> @TNCommercelnsur
- Facebook
 - Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues. For more safety tips, go here: <http://bit.ly/2cTFJKw>
 - Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. For more tips, visit: <http://bit.ly/2cTFJKw>
 - Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire. <http://bit.ly/2cTFJKw>

- Everyone in your home should know how to escape if there is a fire, including children. Practice the escape plan twice a year and make sure everyone knows two ways out of every room. For more tips, go here: <http://bit.ly/2cTFJKw>

Educator Tip: Host a lesson on planning a home fire escape. Using this sample lesson plan from NFPA (<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw1710minutelessonplanescape.pdf?la=en>) and other materials, you can address the importance of planning a home fire escape with adults who can then bring the message home to their kids. It may help to have examples of home fire escape plans.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Home Fire Escape

4.1.2 Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

4.1.7 Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

Practicing the Home Fire Drill

4.2.5 Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.

MARCH: Week 3 – Medical Oxygen and Fire

Overview: Portable medical oxygen in the home has grown over the past decade. Medical oxygen adds a higher percentage of oxygen to the air a patient uses to breathe. Fire needs oxygen to burn. If a fire should start in an oxygen-enriched area, the material burning will burn more quickly. Homes where medical oxygen is used need specific fire safety rules to keep people safe from fire and burns.

Between 2013 and 2017, 31 Tennessee residents died from home fires where medical oxygen equipment was involved in ignition.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Medical Oxygen Safety tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/oxygensafety.pdf?la=en>
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Portable Home Oxygen” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNvXGEiqgks>
- Fact sheet on fires and burns involving home medical oxygen
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/oxygenfactsheet.pdf?la=en>
- “Home Medical Oxygen Fire Safety” YouTube video
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXqX-WQ_zoY

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote*

- Twitter
 - Don't smoke with medical oxygen present! There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Stay safe! Keep oxygen cylinders at least five feet from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Be careful with medical oxygen! Oxygen isn't flammable, but fire needs it to burn. More oxygen present = more fire risk @TNCommerceInsur
- Facebook
 - Don't smoke with medical oxygen present! There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. For more safety tips, visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/medical-oxygen>
 - Stay safe! Keep oxygen cylinders at least five feet from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices. For more safety tips, visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/medical-oxygen>
 - The air is normally 21% oxygen. Oxygen is not flammable, but fire needs it to burn. When more oxygen is present, any fire that starts will burn hotter and faster than usual. More oxygen in the air means that things such as hair, plastic, skin oils, clothing, and furniture can catch fire at lower temperatures. To learn more about medical oxygen, please visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/medical-oxygen>

Educator Tip: Identify and meet with any home health providers in your area that may be responsible for delivery or upkeep of home medical oxygen. Find out what steps they take to reduce fire risk for their patients and offer the help of your fire department to further reduce the risk. Working with local partners on this issue is extremely important, as medical oxygen is an absolute necessity for many residents. Some ways to help include:

- Talking to residents directly about fire safety and medical oxygen;
- Distributing medical oxygen information to home health organizations and their patients;
- Demonstrating the fire dangers of medical oxygen, perhaps via a live burn demo; and
- Initiating a social media campaign to spread the word about fire and medical oxygen.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Medical Oxygen

16.1.1 A patient on oxygen should not smoke.

16.1.2 Never smoke in a home where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause material to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

16.1.4 Keep oxygen cylinders at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices.

16.1.8 Never use a candle, match, lighter, or other open flame; a fireplace, stove, or other device fueled by gas, kerosene, wood, or coal; or a sparking toy when medical oxygen is in use. Medical oxygen can cause material to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

MARCH: Week 4 – Home Escape Planning/”Close The Door!”

Overview: While the two most important things to remember in the event of a fire are to get out of the building and call 9-1-1, fire officials point out that simply closing doors behind you on your way out can help stop flames and smoke from spreading to other rooms. It also deprives a fire of oxygen, helping to slow it down and allowing occupants more time to escape.

Fire departments and educators can use the State Fire Marshal’s Office “Close the Door!” Toolkit to promote this important safety message: <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Home Fire Escape Plan Checklist & Map
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- “Plan 2 Ways Out!” Infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/images/public-education/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17infographic.png>
- Escape Planning Tip Sheet flyer
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
- “Plan Your Home Fire Escape” 10-Minute Mini-Lesson
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw1710minutelessonplanescape.pdf>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote home escape planning:

- Customizable press release
 - http://tn.gov/assets/entities/commerce/attachments/Fire_Customizable_Press_Release.docx
- Twitter:
 - Home escape plans save lives! Learn how to develop one with all members of your household. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Know 2 ways out of every room in your home! Hint: It’s usually a door and a window. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - 71% of Americans surveyed say they have an escape plan, but less than half have practiced it. Practice it! @TNCommerceInsur
 - Did you know a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting equipment? Learn more here: <http://1.usa.gov/1hfISEB> #closethedoor
 - Simply closing the door behind you when escaping a fire can be the best decision you make. <http://1.usa.gov/1hfISEB> #closethedoor
 - Fire doors prevent spread of smoke/flames in apts & other buildings. Never disable a fire door. <http://1.usa.gov/1hfISEB> #closethedoor
- Facebook
 - Would you and your family members know what to do in a real fire situation? Develop a home escape plan together and practice it. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
 - It’s 2:00 o’clock in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. If you’re not sure what you’d do next, it’s time to learn! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>

- In a fire, working smoke alarms alert you in time to escape safely. Make sure you know how to use those minutes wisely. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it twice a year with all members of your household! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
- Did you know that a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and life-saving equipment in a home? It can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <http://1.usa.gov/1hflSEB>
- Getting out of a burning building and calling 9-1-1 are crucial to survival during a fire, but closing doors during an escape can potentially limit the structural damage a fire can cause and possibly save lives. <http://1.usa.gov/1hflSEB>

Educator Tip: Build your own “Close The Door!” display! A door display can be a very effective tool for publicizing the “Close The Door!” message in number of ways. It can be used during open houses and fire house visits, in-school visits, public safety expos, fairs, or at fundraising events. You can also use this door display as a photo op for local legislators and other leaders. Be sure to use the official “Close The Door!” prop banners and logos found at <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor> .

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Home Fire Escape

4.1.2 Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

4.1.7 Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

4.1.10 A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

4.1.12 If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

4.2.4 Close doors behind you as you leave.

APRIL 2019

EVENTS:

- **Wildfire Safety Awareness Month**
- **Get Alarmed, TN Events: one (1) canvass**

MONTHLY THEME: “Get your Smokey On”

April 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Outdoor Burning

Week 2 – Hydrogen Cyanide & Toxic Gases

Week 3 – Wildfire Preparedness

Week 4 – Security Bars

National Fire Service History

- April 25, 1854 - NY Bldg Collapse (11 firefighter deaths)
- April 9, 1894 - Bldg Collapse, WI (6 firefighter deaths)
- April 12, 1908 - 2,800 Bldgs Burn, MA (17,000 homeless)
- April 18, 1924 - Chicago Wall Collapse (8 firefighter deaths)
- April 20, 1926 - Milwaukee Sawdust Explosion (6 firefighter deaths)
- April 21, 1930 - Ohio Penitentiary fire (322 deaths)
- April 22, 1940 - MS Rhythm Nightclub Fire (200+ deaths)
- April 16, 1947 - Texas Ship & Plant Explosion (66 deaths, including 27 firefighters)
- April 4, 1956 - Wall Collapse, NY (6 firefighter deaths)
- April 19, 1995 - Oklahoma City Bombing (168 deaths)
- April 17, 2013 - West Fertilizer Company Explosion (15 deaths, including 11 firefighters)

Tennessee Specific History

- April 13, 1878 - Fire Conflagration in Clarksville, TN
- April 27, 1865 - Memphis Ship Explosion
- April 27, 1930 - Airplane Crashes into Crowd (7 deaths)
- April 11, 1994 - Memphis Highrise Fire (2 firefighter deaths)
- April 11, 2007 - Johnny Cash's Home Burns
- April 7, 2012 - Fire Chief Kenny Fox killed while fighting a fire inside the Oak Hill Café in Decaturville. Two other fire fighters were also injured. The fire was ruled an arson
- April 15, 2012 - Mulch fire at Shamrock Organic Products in Knoxville requires 12 days of firefighting efforts and 24 million gallons of water to control
- April 12, 2014 - Sevierville cabin housing 22 catches fire. 2 deaths
- April 12, 2015 - Fire at Saint George Church in Knoxville sends 1 firefighter to the hospital
- April 7, 2017 - 5 die in manufactured home fire in Henry County
- April 22, 2018 – 6 die in Alcoa home, including two children

APRIL: Week 1 – Outdoor Burning

Overview: Outdoor burning is common in Tennessee, particularly in the spring time. Home owners often burn debris and brush on their property during the spring, which can lead to an increase in uncontrolled burns and wildfires. Wildfires result in enormous losses of natural resources, personal property, and even lives. Fire can be an effective tool when used properly. Even so, the best intentions can produce disastrous results when safety precautions are not taken.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- BurnSafeTN.org
 - <http://www.burnsafetn.org/>
- Safe Debris Burning pamphlet from TN Division of Forestry
 - <http://www.burnsafetn.org/pdfs/debris.pdf>
- Backyard Debris Burning safety
 - <https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/backyard-debris-burning>
- Fact sheet on responses to brush, grass, and forest fires
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/brushgrassforestfactsheet.pdf?la=en>
- Brush, Grass, and Forest Fires infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/brush-grass-and-forest-fires/brushgrassfireinfographic.pdf?la=en>
- Brush, Grass, and Forest Fires info
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/outdoor-fires/brush-grass-and-forest-fires>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote outdoor burn safety:

- Twitter
 - Burn Safe TN! Always check local burn restrictions before you burn. Visit: www.burnsafetn.org @TNCommerceInsur
 - Check the weather before you burn! Make sure wind is calm and conditions aren't too dry. Visit: www.burnsafetn.org @TNCommerceInsur
 - Always keep water and tools nearby you burn outdoors. Be ready to contain that fire! Visit: www.burnsafetn.org @TNCommerceInsur
- Facebook
 - State law requires a permit for open air burning from October 15 through May 15. Permits are free. You may obtain a permit by calling your local Division of Forestry office in your county. Go to www.burnsafetn.org for more information!
 - If you plan an outdoor burn, make sure to do the following: 1. Obtain a burn permit, 2. Notify your neighbors, 3. Keep water and tools handy, 4. Establish firebreaks, 5. Watch the weather, 6. Control the fire, and 7. Stay with the fire. For more info, go to www.burnsafetn.org
 - Consider alternatives to burning. Some types of debris—such as leaves, grass, and stubble—may be of more value if they are not burned. For more info, go to www.burnsafetn.org

- Careless debris burning is a primary cause of wildfires every year in Tennessee. Do you part to prevent wildfires and go to www.burnsafetn.org

Educator Tip: Make sure all residents in your area know the local burn restrictions and how to obtain a burn permit. Also make sure to enforce all outdoor burn restrictions. Use the “Safe Debris Burning” pamphlet above to distribute outdoor burning information to the residents in your area. Work with the forestry division to determine the most effective method to spreading outdoor burn safety information, which may include flyers, local radio or TV ads, or a public demonstration.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Outdoor Burning

15.1.1 Check with your local fire department or municipality for any restrictions before starting an open-air, recreational, or outdoor cooking fire. Obtain proper permits, if required. You might not be permitted to do outdoor burning in some municipalities and during some seasons.

15.1.2 Closely supervise all outdoor fires. Make sure the fire is out before leaving.

15.1.4 Permitted open fires, such as bonfires or trash fires, need to be at least 50 feet (15 meters) from anything that can burn.

15.1.6 Avoid burning on windy, dry days. When conditions are windy or dry, it is easy for open burning to spread out of control.

15.1.7 Where outdoor burning is allowed, never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.

15.1.8 When burning, have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire.

APRIL: Week 2 – Hydrogen Cyanide & Toxic Gases

Overview: While there is inherent danger from the flames and high heat from fire, smoke inhalation is usually the cause of death in many residential fire fatalities. A byproduct of combustion, smoke is usually the first element of a fire to affect anyone nearby because of its toxicity, temperature, and prevalence in a fire.

Smoke is a collection of airborne solid and liquid particulates and gases. The most dangerous elements of smoke—especially in fires with low oxygen availability—are its toxic gases: hydrogen cyanide, carbon monoxide, and ammonia, among others. These gases have various effects on the human body and can immediately affect one's ability to escape a house fire.

It is important for residents to understand the dangers of these gases and their role in home fire fatalities. The vast majority of home fire deaths are not a result of flame impingement on the human body, but rather a result of asphyxiation and gaseous poisoning which leads to immobilization or unconsciousness.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Smoke Inhalation” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKvrDKwvWDg>
- Hydrogen Cyanide gas index from CDC:
 - https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ershdb/emergencyresponsecard_29750038.html
- Ammonia index from CDC:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0414.html>
- Carbon monoxide index from CDC:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/co/default.htm>
- Carbon monoxide fact sheet
 - https://www.cdc.gov/co/pdfs/flyer_danger.pdf
- “Hydrogen Cyanide: New Concerns for Firefighting and Medical Tactics” article by Richard Rochford
 - <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2009/06/hydrogen-cyanide-new-concerns-for-firefighting-and-medical-tactics.html>
- Carbon monoxide safety tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/COsafety.pdf>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote awareness of toxic gases*

- **Twitter**
 - Smoke is the real danger! Most home fire deaths are from smoke inhalation rather than fire itself. Smoke alarms are key! @TNCommerceInsur
 - Did u know hydrogen cyanide is 30 times more toxic than carbon monoxide? HCN is present in smoke + can incapacitate quickly @TNCommerceInsur
 - Hydrogen cyanide is a toxic gas that is present in smoke during most home fires. It can affect humans far quicker than CO! @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
 - Did you know that smoke inhalation is most common cause of most home fire deaths? Smoke is a collection of airborne solid and liquid particulates and gases and can usually incapacitate or render unconscious anyone who is nearby. Always make sure to have working smoke alarms in your home and remember to keep your door closed at night, to prevent the spread of smoke and fire. For more info, go to www.tn.gov/fire!

- Smoke is the real danger! Most home fire deaths are from smoke inhalation, rather than the fire itself. Always have working smoke alarms in your home! It can mean the difference between life and death. For more info, and to request a free smoke alarm, go to www.tn.gov/fire!
- Hydrogen cyanide is a toxic gas that is present in most home fires. It is incredibly dangerous and can be lethal in humans in very small amounts. It usually occurs when synthetics and plastics burn in a low oxygen environment (such as house). One of the most common side effects of hydrogen cyanide poisoning is loss of consciousness, making it a very dangerous gas during a home fire. For more info, go to: www.tn.gov/fire!

Educator Tip: When talking to residents about the importance of fire safety, make sure to emphasize the dangers of smoke as well. Let residents know that the real danger is in the smoke levels of the home as a result of a fire being present, rather than just the flames.

One great way to meet and talk to residents about the danger of smoke is by getting your department on board with *Get Alarmed, TN*, a state-wide fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program. By offering to install free smoke alarms in people's homes, you will have the opportunity to talk to them about fire safety, including the dangers of smoke and its toxic gases.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Smoke Alarms

1.1.1 Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home.

1.2.1 Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection.

APRIL: Week 3 – Wildfire Preparedness

Overview: Tennessee residents often choose to make their homes in woodland settings – in or near forests, rural areas, or remote mountain sites. There, homeowners enjoy the beauty of the environment, but also face the very real danger of wildfire.

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. Between 2013 and 2017 in Tennessee, fire departments responded to 54,542 outside fires, including 3,101 forest or wildland fires, which were responsible for over \$850,000 in total damage. That’s an average of 620 forest or wildland fires every year.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Burnsafetn.org
 - www.burnsafetn.org
- Wildland Fire Safety Guide for the Tennessee Homeowner
 - http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise_docs/HomeownerSafetyGuide.pdf
- “How Homes Are Lost To Wildfires”
 - http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise_docs/HowHomesLostInfoSheet.pdf
- Is Your Home Firewise?
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzuHUAsq_Fs
- Firewise Series: Why Homes Burn
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzuHUAsq_Fs

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote wildfire preparedness.

- **Twitter**
 - Wildfires can be prevented and YOU can help. Please visit burnsafetn.org to find out how!
 - Did you know FDs respond to over 600 wildfires every year in TN? Do what you can to help prevent these fires. Visit: burnsafetn.org
 - Want to make your community safer from wildfires? Consider becoming a Firewise community. Visit: burnsafetn.org for more info.
- **Facebook**
 - Wildfires can be prevented and YOU can help. Avoid burning on dry, windy days, keep water and tools handy in case your fire spreads, and always have a burn permit. Please visit burnsafetn.org to find out how!
 - Did you know FDs respond to over 600 wildfires every year in TN? Do what you can to help prevent these fires. Visit: burnsafetn.org
 - Want to make your community safer from wildfires? Consider becoming a Firewise community. There are a few steps to becoming a Firewise community. Join one of the other 10 communities in TN to make the commitment. Visit: burnsafetn.org for more info.

Educator Tip: If your community is primarily in a woodland setting as described above, consider making your community an official Firewise community. You can access the steps to becoming a Firewise community here: http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise_docs/Firewise_Desk_Reference.PDF

As of 2018, there are currently 10 recognized Firewise communities in Tennessee, spread throughout seven different counties.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Plan & Practice Wildfire Safety

- Conduct outdoor burning safely and legally, being sure to secure the appropriate permits.
- Make sure that fire response vehicles can reach your home. Clearly mark all driveway entrances and display your name and address. Ensure adequate accessibility by large fire vehicles to your property.
- Report hazardous conditions that could cause a wildfire.
- Teach children about fire safety. Instill in them that fire is a tool for adults, not a toy. Keep matches and lighters out of their reach.
- Post fire emergency telephone numbers.
- Plan several escape routes away from your home – by car and by foot.
- Talk to your neighbors about wildfire safety. Consider how you could help neighbors – such as elderly or disabled persons – who have special needs. Make plans to take care of children who might be on their own if parents can't get home.

Protect Your Home

- Create a 30-to-100-foot safety zone around your home.
- Rake and remove leaves, dead limbs, twigs, and rubbish from around and under structures in this zone and clear all flammable vegetation.
- Prune tree branches and shrubs within 15 feet of a stovepipe or chimney outlet.
- Ask the power company to clear branches from power lines.
- Regularly clean roofs and gutters and inspect chimneys.
- Remove vines from the walls of the home.
- Mow grass regularly.
- Store gasoline, oily rags, and other flammable materials in approved safety cans. Place cans in a safe location away from the base of buildings.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet away and uphill from your home. Clear combustible material within 20 feet of your home. Use only wood-burning devices evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory.
- Identify and maintain an adequate outside water source such as a small pond, cistern, well, swimming pool, or hydrant.

APRIL: Week 4 – Security Bars

Overview: Security bars are a common method of household protection against burglary, but are dangerous for residents when it comes to egress from a fire. If a fire breaks out in a home, security bars without quick-release devices block crucial fire exits. Between 2013 and 2017 in Tennessee, 14 residents died in home fires where security bars were a contributing factor to the fire death. Another 12 residents died where locked exits were a contributing factor. On average, around five people die every year in home fires where a security bar or locked exit prevented them from escaping the fire.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Why are window security bars dangerous?
 - http://www.mcgarryandmadsen.com/inspection/Blog/Entries/2014/3/22_Why_are_window_security_bars_dangerous.html
- Options for home security bars that will allow emergency exit
 - <http://wreg.com/2016/09/13/options-for-home-security-bars-that-will-allow-emergency-exit/>
- Home security features partially blamed for 9 deaths
 - <http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/33076705/home-security-features-partially-blamed-for-9-deaths>
- Example of quick-release device security bar, available online
 - <http://www.homedepot.com/p/Mr-Goodbar-Swing-Away-29-in-to-42-in-Adjustable-Width-6-Bar-Window-Guard-White-s202-E-29-42/301438138>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote security bar safety

- **Twitter**
 - Security bars can be a fire safety hazard! Only install security bars with a quick-release device. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- **Facebook**
 - Security bars can be a fire safety hazard! Only install security bars with a quick-release device, as these hazards can impact your ability to escape a house fire. For more info, visit tn.gov/fire

Educator Tip: Canvass your area, taking a visual survey of any homes that have security bars. Commit to an in-home visit with the residents in those homes, checking to see if the security bars have quick-release devices. If they don't, offer the residents some options on where they can find quick-release device security bars.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Home Fire Escape

4.1.9 Windows with security bars, grills, and window guards should have easy-to-use quick-release devices from inside the home if allowed in your community and approved by code as a secondary means of escape

MAY 2019

EVENTS:

- **National Building Safety Month**
- **National Electric Safety Month**
- **National Arson Awareness Week, May 6-12, 2018**
- ***Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass**

MONTHLY THEME: “Gearing Up for Summer Safety”

EDUCATOR TIP: Working on a new fire safety educational program for your local school? Try it out at summer camps or daycares so that you can perfect the program before fully launching it this coming fall.

May 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Arson Awareness

Week 2 – Smoke Alarm Tips

Week 3 – Building Safety/Fire Sprinklers

Week 4 – Hotel/Motel Safety

National Fire Service History

- May 4, 1901 – Jacksonville, FL conflagration (1,700 bldgs burn)
- May 6, 1925 - Atlanta Floor Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- May 28, 1977 – Kentucky Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire (165 deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- May 24, 1807 - Tornadoes Hit East Tennessee
- May 19, 1902 - Coal Creek Mine Explosion
- May 1-4, 2010 - Major Flood Disaster in Tennessee (Nashville Floods)
- May 27, 2011 - Fire at the Hoeganaes atomized steel and iron powder manufacturing plant in Gallatin kills three. This explosion/fire was the third at this plant within five months; together, they killed five workers and injured three others.

MAY: Week 1 – Arson Awareness

Overview: Arson can devastate a community, resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decline in property values.

Arson is difficult to prosecute, but the effects are felt throughout the community: workers lose jobs, towns and cities lose tax dollars, burned buildings create blighted areas, and innocent people are injured or killed.

Uncontrolled arson, along with other serious crime, creates rampant fear among residents, business customers, and potential visitors. If the community's streets seem out of control, people will be afraid to come into that area to visit or do business. These conditions can quickly lead to a second stage where residents who can afford to move out begin selling homes, even at a loss, to escape before the bottom drops out. Property tax collections plummet, giving the community less resources to fight back.

One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm. A working smoke alarm greatly reduces your chances of dying in a fire.

Make and practice a home fire escape plan and set a meeting place outside. Be sure everyone in your family knows at least two escape routes from their bedrooms.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- USFA Arson Awareness Week Poster (2016)
 - https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/arson/2016_aaw_11x17_poster_press.pdf
- Arson motives (from USFA)
 - https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/wildfire_arson/arson_motives.html
- Arson reward programs (USFA)
 - https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/wildfire_arson/reward_programs.html
- Arson and intentional fires (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/arson-and-intentional-fires>
- “Preventing Arson Together” PowerPoint
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/arson-and-intentional/nfpaarsonpresentation.ppt?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Intentional Fires Reports from NFPA
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/arson-and-juvenile-firesetting/intentional-fires>
- Intentional Fires Fact Sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/factsheets/intentionalfactsheet.pdf>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote arson awareness.

- **Twitter**
 - Is your community doing everything possible to prevent arson fires? Find out what you can do here: <http://bit.ly/2vENFGf>
 - Did you know more than 250K fires are set intentionally every year in the U.S.? Info on how to prevent arson: <http://bit.ly/2vENFGf>

- More than half a million wildfires are set by arsonists each year in the U.S. causing \$3 billion in damages. Go to: <http://bit.ly/24unyNC>
- **Facebook**
 - Is your community doing everything possible to prevent arson fires? Arson Awareness Week is an opportunity to focus your community on how to prevent these devastating acts. Find out what you can do here: <http://bit.ly/24unyNC>
 - Did you know more than 250K fires are set intentionally every year in the U.S.? Most of these are outside fires, but some are structure fires, which can prove the most fatal. Do everything you can to help prevent arson! Go here for more info: <http://bit.ly/24unyNC>

Educator Tip: Attend a city council or county commission meeting sometime in the weeks leading up to Arson Awareness Week and present the following PowerPoint from NFPA:

<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/arson-and-intentional/nfpaarsonpresentation.ppt?as=1&iar=1&la=en>

This presentation effectively describes the steps any city or community should take to preventing arson. Getting everyone on board will be necessary in developing a neighborhood watch or city-wide awareness program when it comes to arson. It may help to suggest boarding up abandoned houses or lots, which can be attractive to arsonists.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Arson Awareness Week (Dates TBA)

By the Numbers: Intentionally Set Fires

- 261,330 fires were intentionally set on average each year between 2010 and 2014, representing 13 percent of all fires reported to fire departments.
- Intentionally set fires result in 440 deaths, 1,310 injuries, and \$1 billion in direct property loss annually.
- The incidence of intentionally set fires peaks in the spring (March and April) and again in mid-summer (July).
- Matches (33%) and lighters (24%) are the leading heat sources of intentionally set fires.
- 75% of intentionally set fires occur in outside areas.
- 19% of intentionally set fires occur in structures.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, *Intentionally Set Fires*

MAY: Week 2 – Smoke Alarm Tips

Overview: It's a proven fact, having working smoke alarms in your home can reduce your chances of dying in a fire by at least 50%. It's important for people to know the details behind why that is the case and how they can make sure their smoke alarms are set up properly.

Most importantly, it is important for people to know where to install smoke alarms. Through the *Get Alarmed, TN* program, the SFMO advises that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping area, outside every sleeping area, and on every level of the home. It is not necessary to install smoke alarms in a garage, attic, or laundry room. Make sure no smoke alarms are installed with 10 feet of a kitchen appliance to avoid nuisance alarms.



It is also important for residents to know the difference between ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms, the effectiveness of having interconnected smoke alarms, and how often you should clean your smoke alarms.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Smoke Alarm Installation Guide
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Get_Alarmed_Smoke_Alarm_Installation_Guide_2016.pdf
- How to Install a Smoke Alarm
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM2Jntyc-hc&index=24&list=PLWgyob0pqnhxRrSSy_vjzZetQ9Aq3OXXg
- Infographic on **Ionization** Smoke Alarms
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/ionization-smoke-alarm-chart.pdf?la=en>
- Infographic on **Photoelectric** Smoke Alarms
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/photoelectric-smoke-alarm-chart.pdf?la=en>
- Ionization vs. Photoelectric Smoke Alarms
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms/ionization-vs-photoelectric>
- How To Clean Smoke Alarms
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y4R6fWcteM>
- Advantages of Interconnected Smoke Alarms
 - <http://www.brkelectronics.com/professionally-installed/advantages-of-an-interconnected-home>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote these simple smoke alarm tips.

- **Twitter**
 - Know the difference! Ionization alarms -> flaming fires, photoelectric alarms -> smoldering fires. More info: <http://bit.ly/2wqanTD>

- Do you know where you should install smoke alarms? Go here to find out: <http://bit.ly/2aA2COY>
- Ionization alarms respond best to flaming fires. Here's how they work: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/ionization-smoke-alarm-chart.pdf?la=en>
- Photoelectric alarms respond best to slow, smoldering fires. Here's how they work: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/photoelectric-smoke-alarm-chart.pdf?la=en>
- **Facebook**
 - Ionization alarms respond best to flaming fires. Here's how they work: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/ionization-smoke-alarm-chart.pdf?la=en>
 - Photoelectric alarms respond best to slow, smoldering fires. Here's how they work: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/photoelectric-smoke-alarm-chart.pdf?la=en>
 - Interconnected smoke alarms are the best way to protect your entire home. For more information, go here: <http://www.brkelectronics.com/professionally-installed/advantages-of-an-interconnected-home>

Educator Tip: Conduct a district-wide smoke alarm canvass with your department. The SFMO can help you with this project (go here to request help with a canvass: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/forms/Canvass_Request_Form_2017.pdf)

To conduct a canvass, you will need a comprehensive risk assessment, a supply of alarms, a group of volunteers, and other supplies (drills, ladders, etc.).

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

1.2.4 For the best protection, or where extra time is needed to awaken or assist others, both ionization smoke alarms and photoelectric smoke alarms or combination ionization-photoelectric alarms, also known as dual sensor smoke alarms, are recommended.

1.6.1 Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

MAY: Week 3 – Building Safety/Fire Sprinklers

Overview: To help raise awareness of building safety, the SFMO proudly celebrates Building Safety Month during May. Building Safety Month is a public safety awareness campaign to help individuals, families, and businesses understand what it takes to create safe, resilient, affordable, and energy-efficient homes and buildings.

When our building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings and review construction plans to ensure code compliance, they help to ensure the places where you live, learn, work, worship, and play are safe. They work closely with homebuilders, contractors, plumbers, roofers, and other construction industry trades to provide maximum public safety.

Homes and buildings that are built in compliance with building safety codes result in resilient structures that minimize the risks of death, injury, and property damage. Regardless of the department where code officials work — building, fire, planning, or elsewhere — they work hard every day to provide public safety by ensuring buildings are constructed safely. Resilient structures minimize risk of property damage, allowing property owners to pay lower insurance costs and saving millions of taxpayer dollars when rebuilding from natural disasters.

When you enter a house or other type of building, you assume it is safely and properly constructed, and that it complies with state and local building codes. Building codes address all aspects of construction, including structural integrity, fire prevention, plumbing, mechanical systems, and energy efficiency. Maintaining building safety requires the active participation of property owners, code officials, fire inspectors, architects, builders, engineers, contractors, and others in the construction industry.



One of the best ways to keep homes and buildings safe from fire is the use of fire sprinkler systems. Fire sprinkler systems react quickly in a fire dramatically reducing a fire's heat, flames, and smoke. Fire sprinklers can control, and may even extinguish, a fire in less time than it would take a fire department to arrive on the scene.

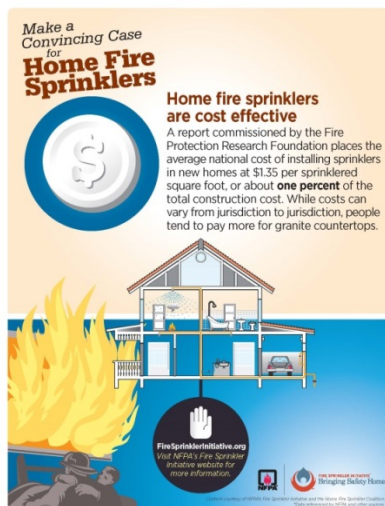
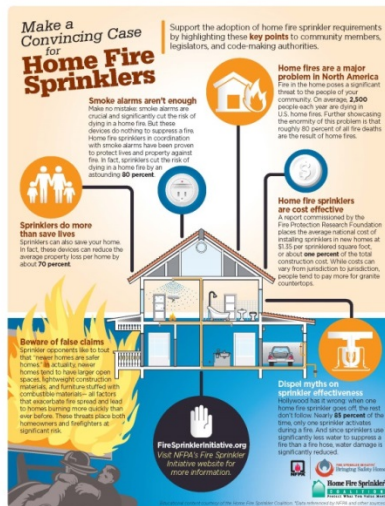
Resources: The following resources are available:

- International Code Council
 - <https://www.iccsafe.org/>
- “Who Needs Building Codes?” pamphlet
 - <https://www.iccsafe.org/safety/Documents/BSW-BldgCodes-How.pdf>
- “Benefits of Building Permits” pamphlet
 - <https://www.iccsafe.org/safety/Documents/BSW-BldgCodes-How.pdf>
- Consumer safety tips for your home
 - <https://www.iccsafe.org/consumer-safety-tips/>
- ICC Media videos (YouTube)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/user/ICCMEDIA/videos>
- Fire and Sprinkler Side-by-Side Burn Demo
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlx1SMmLyJc>

- Fire Sprinkler Initiative, Free Downloads
 - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools/free-downloads.aspx>
- NFPA Safety Tips – Home Fire Sprinklers
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g73JQBFf0vE>
- Free Fire Sprinkler Education Materials
 - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/free-fire-sprinkler-education-materials/>
- Fire sprinkler advocate takes on anti-sprinkler naysayer
 - <https://community.nfpa.org/community/home-fire-sprinkler-initiative/blog/2018/09/20/fire-sprinkler-advocate-takes-on-anti-sprinkler-naysayer>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote building safety and fire sprinklers.

- **Twitter**
 - Fire sprinklers save lives! Spread the word about #fastestwater @NFSAorg @TNCommercelnsur
 - Support residential fire sprinklers! @NFPA @TNCommercelnsur
 - Did you know the cost of residential fire sprinklers is about 1% of total construction cost? @NFPA @TNCommercelnsur
- **Share these images on Facebook:**



Educator Tip: A fire sprinkler side-by-side burn is an effective way to demonstrate to people the importance of residential sprinklers. Though they can be difficult and costly to build, any effort to publicize fire sprinklers is not wasted.

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition has a free toolkit on how to build a side-by-side demo trailer. For the full toolkit, go here: <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-sprinkler-demonstration-kit/>

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

2.1.1 Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers can reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire, allowing people more time to escape.

2.2.2 Home fire sprinklers work along with smoke alarms to save lives.

MAY: Week 4 – Hotel/Motel Safety

Overview: As the school year comes to a close, many Tennesseans are turning their attention to family vacation plans. The State Fire Marshal's Office asks that you remember to incorporate fire safety into travel plans before hitting the road for your summer retreat. Being mindful of the following safety points will help ensure that your upcoming vacation is as safe as it is fun!

Resources: The following resources are available:

- NFPA—Hotel & Motel Safety
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/hotels-and-motels>
- NFPA Safety Tips – Hotel/Motel Safety
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHziKihkezW>
- U.S. hotel fire incidents with 10 or more fatalities
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/press-room/hotelfirefatalitiesreport.pdf?la=en>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote safety in hotels and motels.*

- **Twitter**
 - Choose a hotel/motel that is protected by both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system! #HotelSafety @TNCommerceInsur
 - Hotel safety 101: always take the time to find all available exits when you check in @TNCommerceInsur
 - If an alarm sounds, leave immediately, closing all doors behind you. #HotelSafety @TNCommerceInsur

Educator Tip: Discuss safety plan options with any local hotels/motels in your area. Have the owner/manager walk you through their escape plan for their visitors. Make suggestions on ways in which their escape plan can be improved.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

5.1.1 Choose a hotel that is protected by both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers.

5.1.4 Count the number of doors between your room and the nearest two fire exits. If they are not alarmed, open the exit doors to be sure they are unlocked.

5.1.7 Use the stairs—never use elevators during a fire.

JUNE 2019

EVENTS:

- **Outdoor summer activities**
- ***Get Alarmed, TN* Events: two (2) canvasses**

MONTHLY THEME: “Fire Safety and the Great Outdoors”

EDUCATOR TIP: Utilize senior discount days at your local grocery store or restaurants to reach older adults with key fire safety messages.

June 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Marina/Boating Electrical Safety

Week 2 – Outdoor Grilling Safety

Week 3 – Campfire Safety

Week 4 – Fireworks Safety

National Fire Service History

- June 11, 1805 - Detroit, Michigan Destroyed by Conflagration
- June 5, 1853 - Oswego, New York Great Fire
- June 19, 1867 - Philadelphia Wall Collapse (9 firefighter deaths)
- June 5, 1946 - Chicago LaSalle Hotel Fire (61 deaths)
- June 17, 1972 - Boston Hotel Fire (9 firefighter deaths)
- June 7, 1997 - Chelsea, Massachusetts Conflagration (8 alarms)
- June 16, 2003 - Memphis Family Dollar Fire (2 firefighter deaths)
- June 18, 2007 - Charleston Super Sofa Fire (9 firefighter deaths)
- June 30, 2013 - Arizona Wildfire (19 firefighter deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- June 26, 1977 - Maury Co. Jail Fire Kills 42 in Columbia
- June 20, 2006 - Sweetwater Train Derailment
- June 8, 2013 - Home Fire Kills 4 in Carthage

JUNE: Week 1 – Marina/Boating Electrical Safety

Overview: There's nothing like a great day out on the water spending time with family and friends, but Tennesseans need to be aware of the danger of electric shock drowning (ESD) and how it can be avoided.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Marina Inspection (TDCI video)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hezRx3NbL8E>
- NFPA & ESFI electrical safety resources
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/news-and-media/press-room/news-releases/2016/nfpa-and-esfi-share-boating-and-marina-electrical-safety-resources>
- Marina Electrical Safety (AMI)
 - <http://www.pcmarinesurveys.com/Marina%20Electrical%20Safety.pdf>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote marina/boating electrical safety.

- **Twitter**
 - Never swim near a boat, marina, or launching ramp. Electrical current could put you at risk of electric shock drowning (ESD) @NFPA
 - To retrieve a person in the water: reach, throw, and row... but don't go. Electric shock drowning is real. @NFPA @TNCommerceInsur
 - Talk to marina owners or operators about the danger of ESD. Ask your marina operator to prohibit swimming at their facility, post signs.
- **Facebook**
 - Do you know about ESD (electric shock drowning)? If you own or use a marina, you should. Go here for more info: <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/news-and-media/press-room/news-releases/2016/nfpa-and-esfi-share-boating-and-marina-electrical-safety-resources>
 - Never swim near a boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat, or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of ESD. Go here for more info: <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/news-and-media/press-room/news-releases/2016/nfpa-and-esfi-share-boating-and-marina-electrical-safety-resources>
 - To retrieve a person in the water: reach, throw, and row... but don't go. Electric shock drowning is real. Go here for more info: <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/news-and-media/press-room/news-releases/2016/nfpa-and-esfi-share-boating-and-marina-electrical-safety-resources>

Educator Tip: Talk to any local marina owners about the dangers of ESD (electric shock drowning). Show them the video in the resources section above and coach them on the messages in the messaging section below.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

IN GENERAL

- To retrieve a person in the water, reach, throw, and row, but don't go.
- Tell others about ESD. Most people have never heard of it and are unaware of the danger.

- Make sure your children understand the importance of not swimming anywhere there could be electricity. Don't let them roughhouse on docks. Tell them what to do if they feel a tingling or shock in the water (see below).
- ESD victims are good candidates for successful Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Learn to perform CPR and maintain your training.

IN MARINAS

- NEVER swim within 100 yards of any freshwater marina or boatyard.
- Talk to marina owners or operators about the danger of ESD. Ask your marina operator to prohibit swimming at their facility and post signs.
- Ask marina operators if they are aware of and following the guidelines from NFPA 303 (Fire Protection Standard for Marinas and Boatyards) and National Electric Code (NEC) 555.

IF YOU HAVE A BOAT

- Have your boat tested once a year to see if it is leaking electricity or buy a clamp meter and test it yourself. If you find any problems, have your boat inspected by a qualified electrician trained to American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) standards.
- Have a qualified ABYC electrician install an Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupter (ELCI) on your boat (refer them to the ABYC E-11 Standard) or use an ELCI in the shore power cord. As an alternative, install an isolation transformer on the boat.
- Test the GFCI/ELCI at least once a month or per the manufacturer's specifications.
- DO NOT do your own 120-volt AC electrical work on a boat or hire an electrician who is not familiar with ABYC standards to do it. Many of the problems that lead to electrical faults result from the differences between shore and boat electrical systems and standards.
- DO NOT use common household extension cords for providing shore power to your boat. Use, and encourage other boaters to use, shore power cords built to UL standards.
- NEVER dive on your boat to work on underwater fittings when it is plugged in to shore power, even in saltwater.

IF YOU HAVE A PRIVATE DOCK

- NEVER swim within 100 yards of ANY dock using electrical power!
- If you have not electrified your dock or put an AC system on your boat, weigh the risks carefully before doing so.
- If you need electricity on your dock, hire a licensed electrician and make sure the wiring meets the requirements in NFPA 303 and NEC 555. If your dock is already wired, hire an electrician to check that it was done properly. Because docks are exposed to the elements, their electrical systems should be inspected at least once a year.
- Exercise your GFCIs/ELCIs as recommended by the manufacturer.
- If you normally run a power cord from your house or garage to charge your batteries, make sure the outlet has a GFCI and include an ELCI somewhere in the shore power cord.
- NEVER swim off your dock without shutting down all shore power to the boat and the dock.
- Even if you adhere to all of these rules, nearby docks can still present a shock hazard. Educate your neighbors and work together with them to make the waterfront safe.

IF YOU'RE IN THE WATER & FEEL TINGLING OR SHOCKS

- DO NOT follow your instinct to swim toward the dock!
- SHOUT! Drowning victims cannot speak, let alone shout. Let everyone know what's happening so they'll understand the danger and react appropriately.
- Try to stay upright and back out of the area the way you came, warn any other swimmers in the area of the danger, and then head for shore 100 yards or more from the dock.
- Alert the dock or marina owner and tell them to shut the power off to the dock until they locate the problem and correct it.
- Go to the hospital to make sure there are no lingering effects that could be dangerous.

IF YOU HAVE TO RESCUE AN ESD VICTIM

- Know how to distinguish drowning from ESD (see Alert for how to recognize "normal" drowning; tingling, numbness, or pain all indicate ESD).
- Fight the instinct to enter the water. Many rescuers have died trying to help ESD victims.
- Call for help. Use 911 or VHF Channel 16 as appropriate.
- Turn off the shore power connection at the meter base and/or unplug shore power cords.
- Get the victim out of the water. Remember to reach, throw, row, but don't go.
- If the person is not breathing or you cannot get a pulse, perform CPR until the Fire Department, Coast Guard, or ambulance arrives.

JUNE: Week 2 – Outdoor Grilling

Overview: Summertime means outdoor grilling time for many Tennessee residents. It is also the peak season for grilling fires. The State Fire Marshal's Office urges outdoor cooks to keep fire safety in mind as they start up the grill this summer.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- NFPA – Grilling Safety
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/grilling>
- Grilling Safety Tips
 - http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/grilling_safety_tips.pdf
- Grilling statistics infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/grilling/grillinginfographic2016big.jpg>
- Grilling safety tips YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65RCHLNiKa8>
- ESPN's Hannah Storm Talks About Surviving a Grilling Accident
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=Rs9hq3IVrnE

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote outdoor grilling safety.

- **Twitter**
 - July is the peak month for grilling fires, followed by May, June & August. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/HyUG300fseO> #FireFacts
 - ESPN @SportsCenter anchor @HannahStormESPN urges others to learn from her accident & grill safely: <http://ow.ly/cjH5300fvgs>
 - Read all of NFPA's grilling safety tips & download the free safety tip sheet: <http://ow.ly/lrAl300fszr>
- **Facebook**
 - Share this infographic on grilling stats from @NFPA to inform your friends/family/neighbors: <http://ow.ly/qDEi300fv5l>
 - When the warmer weather hits, there's nothing better than the smell of food on the grill. Three out of five households own a gas grill, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there's an increased risk of home fires. Do you know the most important grilling safety tips? If no, go here to learn: <http://ow.ly/lrAl300fszr>
 - ESPN @SportsCenter anchor @HannahStormESPN urges others to learn from her accident & grill safely: <http://ow.ly/cjH5300fvgs>
 - Read all of NFPA's grilling safety tips & download the free safety tip sheet: <http://ow.ly/lrAl300fszr>
 - Safety tip: grills should be placed well away from home/deck railings & out from under eaves & branches <http://ow.ly/kMfq300fumf>

Educator Tip: Offer to host a neighborhood grill-out with your fire department and any residents that want to participate. While this is often a good opportunity to fundraise for a volunteer fire department, it is also a great opportunity to teach grilling safety.

Organize a formal grilling safety demonstration with all attendees and make sure to answer any questions they may have. The key points on this grilling safety sheet should all be covered:
http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/grilling_safety_tips.pdf

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

7.8.1 Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet barbecue grills must only be used outdoors. Indoor use can kill occupants by causing a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

7.8.2 Place the grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony, including any porch or balcony on an upper level of the building.

7.8.3 Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.

7.8.4 Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3-foot (1 meter) "kid-free zone" around the grill.

7.8.7 Never leave a barbecue grill unattended.

7.10.4 Light a propane grill only with the cover open. If the flame on the propane grill goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting.

JUNE: Week 3 – Campfire Safety

Overview: In recent years, there has been a new concern for the fire service - fire pits. Fire pits are known to be a great source of warmth and ambience. With the popularity of fire pits increasing, fire safety has become even more important. There are many things you should consider while setting up and using a fire pit.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Campfire Safety” from National Interagency Fire Center
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAuhoT-K5gl>
- “Campfire Safety with the H.E.A.T. Team” YouTube video (for kids)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY_1aBQZ2JM
- Campfire Safety tip sheet from NFPA
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/campingfiresafety.pdf>
- Campfire safety website (Smokey Bear)
 - <https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/campfire-safety>
- Safety tips for Campfires (from Indiana.gov)
 - http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Campfire_Safety2.pdf

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote campfire safety.

- **Twitter**
 - Before setting up your campfire, check with your local fire department to make sure it's allowed. #CampfireSafety @TNCommerceInsur
 - Campfire accidents send thousands of people to emergency rooms with burn injuries every year. Camp safe! #CampfireSafety @TNCommerceInsur
 - Keep campfires at least 25 ft from anything that can burn. Clear away dry leaves/sticks, low hanging brush. #CampfireSafety @TNCommerceInsur
 - Avoid burning campfires on dry, windy days. It is easier for fires to spread out of control. Camp safe! #CampfireSafety @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
 - Before setting up a campfire, be sure it is permitted. Check with your local fire department. If campfires are permitted, they need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn. For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/campingfiresafety.pdf>
 - Some important campfire safety tips: clear away any dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs. Avoid burning on dry, windy days. Never use gasoline or accelerants on a campfire. Never leave a campfire unattended. For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/campingfiresafety.pdf>

Educator Tip: Add a campfire safety demonstration to your routine whenever you perform a public fire safety demo. Many people forget that fire safety is as important outside and it is inside.

Emphasize the important points in NFPA's campfire safety tips from above as well as the messages below.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

- Keep away from flammable material and fluids such as gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, and charcoal lighter fluid or vehicles while in use.
- Do not use flammable fluids such as gasoline, alcohol, diesel fuel, kerosene, and charcoal lighter fluid to light or relight fires.
- Exercise the same precautions you would with an open fire.
- Do not allow children to use the fire pit. Keep children and pets away.
- Do not wear flammable or loose fitting clothing such as nylon.
- Do not burn trash, leaves, paper, cardboard, or plywood. Avoid using soft wood such as pine or cedar that likely pop and throw sparks. Use of seasoned hardwood is suggested.
- Before starting the fire, make sure that the lid will still close to extinguish the fire in case of emergency. Do not overload.
- Before you light the fire, check the wind direction.
- Keep a fire extinguisher or garden hose nearby.

How to Pick Your Spot

- DO NOT build a fire at a site in hazardous, dry conditions. DO NOT build a fire if the campground, area, or event rules prohibit campfires.
- FIND OUT if the campground has an existing fire ring or fire pit.
- If there is not an existing fire pit, and pits are allowed, look for a site that is at least fifteen feet away from tent walls, shrubs, trees or other flammable objects. Also beware of low-hanging branches overhead.

Extinguishing Your Campfire

- Allow the wood to burn completely to ash, if possible.
- Pour lots of water on the fire; drown all embers, not just the red ones.
- Pour until hissing sound stops.
- Stir the campfire ashes and embers with a shovel.
- Scrape the sticks and logs to remove any embers.
- Stir and make sure everything is wet and they are cold to the touch.
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix enough dirt or sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool. REMEMBER: do NOT bury the fire as the fire will continue to smolder and could catch roots on fire that will eventually get to the surface and start a wildfire. REMEMBER: If it is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave!

JUNE: Week 4 – Fireworks Safety

Overview: Celebrating our nation’s independence with fireworks has been a longstanding tradition in the United States. However, many people are seriously injured each year by their careless use. The State Fire Marshal’s Office encourages Tennesseans to have a fire-safe fourth by leaving the fireworks to the professionals. To avoid the risk of injury and property damage associated with consumer fireworks, join other community members in attending a public display put on by trained and licensed professionals.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more than twice the number of fires are reported on Independence Day than on any other day of the year in the United States. Two out of five of these fires are caused by fireworks. According to the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System, from 2013-2017, Tennessee fire departments responded to 364 fires caused by fireworks. Those fires caused over \$930,000 in property damage.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Consumer Fireworks Safety Public Service Announcement” YouTube video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcFulEwbITA>
- Fireworks safety from NFPA
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/seasonal-fires/fireworks>
- Fireworks infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/fireworks/fireworksinfographic.jpg>
- Fireworks safety tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/fireworkssafetytips.pdf>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote safety in hotels and motels.

- **Twitter**
 - Leave fireworks to the professionals – do not use consumer fireworks!
<http://ow.ly/EnLA30cTnSo> @TNCommerceInsur
 - Did you know: Sparklers burn at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit, hot enough to cause 3rd degree burns! <http://ow.ly/HUqd30cTo3N> @TNCommerceInsur
 - More fires are reported July 4h than any other day & fireworks account for more than ½ of them! <http://ow.ly/HUqd30cTo3N> @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
 - Consumer fireworks include sparklers and firecrackers. Did you know that the tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause 3rd degree burns? www.nfpa.org/fireworks
 - Watch our Fireworks Safety PSA - Dan Doofus urges people not to use consumer Fireworks because they are too dangerous:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcFulEwbITA>
 - Patrick and Marci Foy, and their daughter, Olivia, were injured while attending a family celebration, and were among more than a dozen people hurt. Hear them tell their story:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIAB-NuZYfI>
 - A dramatic demonstration of the dangers of consumer fireworks, hosted by the Alliance to Stop Consumer Fireworks (coordinated by the National Fire Protection Association) and the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal's office. This video shows the damage that

fireworks could cause a person standing too close to fireworks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0uMUH6jta0>

Educator Tip: Make sure your department is reporting fireworks incidents properly! Reporting fireworks incidents properly to the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System (TFIRS) is extremely important. The more we know about a problem, the more we can do to prevent it. **See supplemental information section for guidelines on how to document fireworks incidents in TFIRS.**

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Follow the Law:

Counties and most cities have their own ordinances and restrictions regarding firework use, so it's important to first check with your local police station or fire department to determine the local law before setting off fireworks in your area. A 2007 law prevents children under 16 years of age from purchasing fireworks. Those who are age 16 or 17 must present a photo ID to purchase them.

State legislation reclassified sky lanterns as special fireworks exclusively for use by individuals with a professional license (certified flame effect operator, certified outdoor display operator or certified proximate pyrotechnic operator). The general public cannot purchase or use sky lanterns. If sky lanterns are found in the possession of someone who does not have a professional license issued by the State Fire Marshal, they can be confiscated and later destroyed. In addition, a state law passed in July 2014 prohibits flying a drone (unmanned aircraft) above an outdoor ticketed event with more than 100 people, or in the vicinity of a fireworks display site, without the permission of the event operator.

Think Safety:

If consumer fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to handle or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Wear eye protection.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never throw or point fireworks at people or animals.
- Only light fireworks outdoors on a smooth, flat surface away from homes, dry leaves and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water and a garden hose nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Sparklers are not toys and cause hundreds of injuries every year. Sparklers burn hot, can reach temperatures as high as 1,200° F, and stay hot long after they've burned out. You wouldn't hand a matchbook or lighter to a child to wave around or play with, so don't give a child a sparkler.

JULY 2019

EVENTS:

- July 4th Fireworks Events
- *Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass

MONTHLY THEME: “Youth Fire Safety”

EDUCATOR TIP: The child fire death rate spikes during July in Tennessee. Use "kids eat free" nights at your local restaurants to conduct fire safety outreach for this vulnerable population. Ask to set up an informational booth or display on these sites during their peak family times.

July 2019 Topics

Week 1 – “Close The Door!”

Week 2 – Escape Planning

Week 3 – Stop, Drop, Cover & Roll

Week 4 – Matches & Lighters

National Fire Service History

- July 12, 1919 - Philadelphia Bldg Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- July 6, 1944 - Connecticut Circus Tent Fire (168 deaths)
- July 29, 1956 - Texas Refinery Fire (19 firefighter deaths)
- July 5, 1973 - Kingman, Arizona Gas Fire (12 firefighter deaths)
- July 23, 1984 - Illinois Refinery Fire (10 firefighter deaths)
- July 1, 1988 - Hackensack, New Jersey Collapse (5 firefighter deaths)
- July 6, 1994 - Storm King Mt Wildfire (14 firefighter deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- July 9, 1918 - Nashville Great Train Wreck
- July 9, 1964 - United Airlines Flight Crashed near Parrottsville
- July 14, 1992 - Gatlinburg Downtown Fire

JULY: Week 1 – “Close The Door!”

Overview: The “Close The Door!” campaign is unique to the SFMO and its goal is to encourage people to close the door whenever possible—whether they are going to bed at night or leaving the room in the event of a fire. Closing the door can stop the spread of fire in a home for hours at a time, leaving plenty of room to find alternate escape routes or shelter in place until help arrives. A door can be one of the best pieces of firefighting & lifesaving equipment.

The campaign works in conjunction with inter-connected smoke alarms, which are required in all new construction.

In 2018, the SFMO announced a partnership with Knox Box to help spread the “Close The Door!” message throughout the state. This partnership will be a comprehensive campaign involving local fire departments aimed at educating local residents about the importance of doors in fire prevention.

Check out our new “Close The Door!” website here: <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>

Resources: The following resources are available, courtesy of the SFMO and Knox Box:

- Official “Close The Door!” website:
 - <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>
- “Close The Door!” Informational Flyer
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Close_the_Door_Flyers.pdf

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to spread the “Close The Door!” message:

- Customizable press release
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Fire_Customizable_Press_Release.docx
- Twitter:
 - Did you know a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting equipment? Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
 - Simply closing the door behind you when escaping a fire can be the best decision you make. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
 - Fire doors prevent spread of smoke/flames in apts & other buildings. Never disable a fire door. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
 - Fire moves fast. A closed door may slow a fire & provide precious seconds needed for escape. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
- Facebook:
 - Did you know that a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and life-saving equipment in a home? It can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
 - Getting out of a burning building and calling 9-1-1 are crucial to survival during a fire, but closing doors during an escape can potentially limit the structural damage a fire can cause and possibly save lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>



- Keep fire doors closed. These specialized doors are used to compartmentalize a building and prevent the spread of smoke and flames. Never wedge, disable, or prop open fire doors in apartments or other buildings. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
- Three simple words may save lives during a fire: “Close the door!” A closed door can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>

Educator Tip: Build your own “Close The Door!” display! A door display can be a very effective tool for publicizing the “Close The Door!” message in number of ways. It can be used during open houses and fire house visits, in-school visits, public safety expos, fairs, or at fundraising events. You can also use this door display as a photo op for local legislators and other leaders. Be sure to use the official “Close The Door!” prop banners and logos found at <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>.

NFPA Messaging:

Installation of smoke alarms

1.2.2.1 It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with doors closed.

Home Fire Escape

4.1.10 A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

4.1.12 If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

4.2.4 Close doors behind you as you leave.

JULY: Week 2 – Escape Planning

Overview: Escape planning is something that every resident should understand and practice. Fires can happen anywhere at any time, so it is important to plan your escape ahead of time.

In addition, the child fire death rate spikes during July in Tennessee. In researching these deaths, it is clear that escape planning could help reduce the chance of fatalities. Help us stop this trend by practicing fire safety in your home. Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with your family today!



Resources: The following resources are available:

- “Sleepover Fire Safety for Kids”
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/sleepover-fire-safety-for-kids>
- Escape planning grid (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- Fire escape planning (USFA)
 - <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/escape.html>
- Basic fire escape planning (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/basic-fire-escape-planning>
- “Home Fire Escape Plan” template from Red Cross
 - https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m38640160_Home_Fire_Escape_Plan.pdf
- Plan Your Family Fire Escape
 - http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments_Advocacy/Fact%20Sheets/Fire-Escape-Plan.pdf
- Home Fire Escape Plans (YouTube video from Spokane Fire)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H6y40hnr4>
- Fire Safety – Have Two Ways Out
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9KSFRq4rXA>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote escape planning awareness.

- **Twitter**
 - Teach children to never hide during a fire; they must get out and stay out! @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Involve children in making and practicing your escape plan. Practice it monthly! @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Home escape plans save lives! Learn how to develop one with all members of your household. @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - Know 2 ways out of every room in your home! Hint: It’s usually a door and a window. @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
 - 71% of Americans surveyed say they have an escape plan, but less than half have practiced it. Practice it! @TNCommercelnsur

- **Facebook**

- Having a sleepover? Make sure you are practicing fire safety! Go here to check out some sleepover fire safety tips: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/sleepover-fire-safety-for-kids>
- Tennessee sees an unfortunate spike in summer-time fire fatalities involving children. Often this could be because children are staying in unfamiliar homes and may not be aware of the fire escape plan. Go here to make sure you are following NFPA's sleepover fire safety tips: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/sleepover-fire-safety-for-kids>
- Everyone should know two ways out of every room. If there is a fire, you won't have much time to react and get out of the house, so make sure you plan your escape ahead of time with everyone in the home. For more tips, check out NFPA's basic fire escape planning: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/escape-planning/basic-fire-escape-planning>

Educator Tip: Contact your local library to see if they provide free literature on home fire escape planning over the summer months. If they do not, see if you can provide copies of NFPA or Red Cross's fire escape plan to the library to give away. Another option may be to host a "fire safety hour" in which your department teaches a session on fire escape planning library visitors.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Home Fire Escape

4.1.2 Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

4.1.7 Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

Practicing the Home Fire Drill

4.2.5 Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.

JULY: Week 3 – Stop, Drop, Cover & Roll

Overview: “Stop, drop, cover and roll” has been one of the most recognizable fire safety messages for decades. Many adults remember the concept from being introduced to it as a young child. Unfortunately, it is common for people, especially children, to mistakenly believe that they should utilize stop, drop, and roll as a reaction to all fire situations.

It is important to stress, especially to children, that stop, drop, cover, and roll is only appropriate when your clothing or body is on fire. If a fire occurs in a home or a building, however, they need to know that getting out fast and staying out is the priority. Make sure you and your family are prepared for what to do in case a clothing fire occurs:

- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- If you cannot “stop, drop, and roll”, keep a blanket or towel nearby to help you or others smother flames. Cover the person with a blanket to smother the fire.
- If you use a wheelchair, scooter, or other device and are able to get to the floor, lock the device first to stay in place before getting on the floor to roll until the flames are out.
- Use cool water to treat any resulting burns immediately for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies. Get medical help right away by calling 9-1-1 or the fire department.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Know When to Stop, Drop, and Roll (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/fss/stop-drop-and-roll>
- Basics of Stop, Drop, and Roll in fires
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcFCY1OFhCw>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote stop, drop, cover and roll.*

- **Twitter**
 - Only use “stop, drop, cover, and roll” when your clothes are on fire. If your home is on fire, get out and call 911. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Never “stop, drop, cover and roll” when there is a fire in your house... only if your clothes are on fire. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- **Facebook**
 - You may know what “Stop, Drop, Cover and Roll” is, but do you know when to use it? Only when your clothes are on fire. NEVER use this technique if there is a fire in your home. Get out and call 911. For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/fss/stop-drop-and-roll>

Educator Tip: Though many fire and life safety educators are trying to work “Stop, Drop, and Roll” out of their fire safety education routines, this isn’t necessary. It is important to let people know what to do if their clothes catch on fire. However, it is important to provide context for when to use this technique. It is also very important to talk to kids about when to use this technique. Too often the message can be misunderstood.

The *Learn Not To Burn* program is a great tool for delivering contextually appropriate fire safety techniques to children. In the SDR section of this program, the curriculum is explicit about when and

when not to use this technique. If you have not implemented *Learn Not To Burn* in your curriculum, here is a great place to start:

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/learn-not-to-burn>

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

6.1.1 If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

JULY: Week 4 – Matches & Lighters

Overview: Between 2013 and 2017, Tennessee fire departments responded to 7231 structure fires in which the primary heat source was a match or lighter. These fires caused over \$4 million in total damage. While most of these incidents are related to other common accidental house fire causes (smoking, cooking, etc.), occasionally the cause is ruled to be children playing with a heat source.

In 2008, Tennessee banned the sale of novelty lighters in the state. These lighters usually resemble cartoon characters, toys, guns, watches, musical instruments, and animals, and often include entertaining audio and visual effects. They pose a serious fire hazard, especially in the hands of children who mistake them for toys. Toy-like or novelty lighters have been responsible for injuries, deaths, and accidents across the nation.

Below are some facts about children and fire safety. Teach your children the importance of fire-safe habits, and practice a home fire escape plan with them today.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Young Firesetters (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters>
- Play Safe! Be Safe!
 - www.playsafebesafe.com
- Children & Fire tip sheet (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/childrenandfiresafetytips.pdf>
- Young Firesetters YouTube Video (NFPA)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqrIUyTKYq8>
- Learn Not To Burn program
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/learn-not-to-burn>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote safety with matches and lighters.*

- **Twitter**
 - Talk to your kids about not playing with matches and lighters. It may save a life!
@TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Always store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet or container.
 - A child with an interest in fire can lead to fire starting. Talk to your kids about fire safety!
@TNCommerceInsure #FireSafeTN
- **Facebook**
 - Between 2012 and 2016, Tennessee fire departments responded to 710 structure fires in which the primary heat source was a match or lighter. These fires caused over \$11 million in total damage. While most of these incidents are related to other common accidental house fire causes (smoking, cooking, etc.), occasionally the cause is ruled to be children playing with a heat source. To learn more about talking to your kids about fire safety and not playing with matches/lighters, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters>
 - Children experience fire interest. They may ask questions such as how hot is fire or show an interest in fire through playing with fire trucks or cooking on a play stove. This is healthy, and it is time to begin educating about fire. For more information about child

fire safety, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters>

Educator Tip: The “Play Safe! Be Safe!” children’s fire safety education program is a great way to kick start a child fire setting program in your area. The kit includes interactive materials and games for kids that help teach about not playing with fire. It is often used as an intervention technique with kids who have shown more than just a passing interest in fire setting. Go to www.playsafebesafe.com to order your kit.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

8.1.1 Teach children that hot things burn.

10.1.10 Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

Curious kids set fires

- Children 14 and under make up 10-15 percent of all fire deaths.
- Fifty-two percent of all child fire deaths involve those under 5. These children are usually unable to escape from a fire independently.
- At home, children often play with fire in bedrooms, in closets and under beds to avoid detection. These locations just so happen to contain a lot of flammable materials.
- Too often, child firesetters are not given proper guidance and supervision by parents and teachers. Consequently, they repeat their fire-setting behavior.

AUGUST 2019

EVENTS:

- **Back to School!**
- **Submission of proclamation designating next month as Campus Safety Month in Tennessee.**
- ***Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass**

MONTHLY THEME: “Eliminate Hazards in the Home”

EDUCATOR TIP: Use local sports teams to help install smoke alarms in your community. Many schools will be seeking community hours for their students. Utilize those service hours to reach high-risk groups such as older adults and people with disabilities.

August 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Fire Safety for Older Adults

Week 2 – Hoarding

Week 3 – Select Fire-Safe Housing for College Students

Week 4 – Fire Safety for People with Disabilities

National Fire Service History

- August 5, 1897 - Chicago Grain Elevator Explosion (6 firefighter deaths)
- August 1, 1932 – New York Basement Explosion (8 firefighter deaths)
- August 5, 1949 - Montana Wildland Fire (13 firefighter deaths)
- August 17, 1975 - Pennsylvania Refinery Flashover Fire (8 firefighter deaths)
- August 2, 1978 – New York Roof Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- August 29, 2005 - Hurricane Katrina (1,700+ deaths)

Tennessee Specific History

- August 1, 2004 - Carthage Church Collapse (Fire Chief Killed)
- August 5, 2011 - Memphis Valero refinery fire resulted in loss exceeding 15 million dollars.

AUGUST: Week 1 – Fire Safety for Older Adults

Overview: Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is particularly important for older adults. At age 65, people are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires compared to the population at large. In the United States and Canada, adults age 65 and older make up about 12 percent of the population. With our numbers growing every year, it's essential to take the necessary steps to stay safe.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Fire Safety outreach materials for older adults
 - https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/older_adults.html
- “Older adult fire safety” PSA
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=-JN8p-XX9xg
- “Fire Safety for Older Adults”
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=3xv8bdKhBno
- Fire Safety Checklist for Older Adults
 - https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf
- Older adults fire safety (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/older-adults>
- *Remembering When* Program (NFPA)
 - <http://catalog.nfpa.org/Remembering-When8482-A-Fire-and-Fall-Prevention-Program-for-Older-Adults-Color-Printout-P1462.aspx?icid=A292>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote fire safety for older adults.

- **Twitter**
 - Adults over 65 are twice as likely to be killed or injured in a house fire. Safety tips to know: <http://bit.ly/2ytVEqr> @TNCommerceInsur
 - Older adults are at an increased risk for home fire injury or death. Know these safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2ytVEqr> @TNCommerceInsur
 - Unattended cooking and careless smoking are common fire hazards for older adults. See more here: <http://bit.ly/2ytVEqr> @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
 - Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires in America. Many older adults also experience burn-related injuries during cooking. Prevent fires and burns by being watchful and alert when you cook. For more safety tips for older adults, go to: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf
 - Older adults (age 65 and older) are more than twice as likely to die in fires than the nation’s population as a whole. Individuals aged 85 or older are more than four times as likely to die in a fire than the general population. Older adults have a higher risk of injury from fires. For some important fire safety tips related to older adults, go to: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf
 - Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths for adults 65 and over. It is also the third leading cause of fire injuries for older adults. For some important fire safety tips related to older adults, go to: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf



Educator Tip: The *Remembering When* program is an NFPA educational curriculum geared at educating older adults. It is centered around 16 key safety messages – 8 fire prevention and 8 fall prevention - developed by experts from national and local safety organizations as well as through focus group testing in high-fire-risk states. The program was designed to be implemented by a coalition comprised of the local fire department, service clubs, social and religious organizations, retirement communities, and others. Coalition members can decide how to best approach the local senior population such as through group presentations, during home visits, and/or as part of a smoke alarm installation and fall intervention program.

To get started using the program, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/remembering-when>

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Safety tips

To increase fire safety for older adults, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) offers the following guidelines:

- **Keep it low:** If you don't live in an apartment building, consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escape easier. Make sure that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping room and outside any sleeping areas. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency. When looking for an apartment or high-rise home, look for one with an automatic sprinkler system. Sprinklers can extinguish a home fire in less time that it takes for the fire department to arrive.
- **Sound the alarm:** The majority of fatal fires occur when people are sleeping. Because smoke can put you into a deeper sleep rather than waking you, it's important to have a mechanical early warning of a fire to ensure that you wake up. If anyone in your household is deaf or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.
- **Do the drill:** Conduct your own, or participate in, regular fire drills to make sure you know what to do in the event of a home fire. If you or someone you live with cannot escape alone, designate a member of the household to assist and decide on backups in case the designee isn't home. Fire drills are also a good opportunity to make sure that everyone is able to hear and respond to smoke alarms.
- **Open up:** Make sure that you are able to open all doors and windows in your home. Locks and pins should open easily from inside. (Some apartment and high-rise buildings have windows designed not to open.) If you have security bars on doors or windows, they should have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened easily. These devices won't compromise your safety, but they will enable you to open the window from inside in the event of a fire. Check to be sure that windows haven't been sealed shut with paint or nailed shut. If they have, arrange for someone to break the seals all around your home or remove the nails.
- **Stay connected:** Keep a telephone nearby, along with emergency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke.

AUGUST: Week 2 – Hoarding

Overview: Many fire departments are experiencing serious fires, injuries, and deaths as the result of compulsive hoarding behavior. The excessive accumulation of materials in homes poses a significant threat to firefighters fighting fires and responding to other emergencies in these homes and to residents and neighbors. Hoarding can hinder you from getting out of a burning home and can hinder firefighters from getting in. Studies suggest that between three and five percent of the population are compulsive hoarders.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Hoarding and fire safety (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/hoarding-and-fire-safety>
- “Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk” Tip Sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/hoardingtipsheet.pdf?la=en>
- Hoarding: Issues for the Fire Service
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/hoarding/hoarding.pdf?la=en>
- “The Dangers of Too Much Stuff” NFPA Journal article
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/publications/nfpa-journal/2012/january-february-2012/features/the-dangers-of-too-much-stuff>
- “The Clutter Movement” grassroots organization
 - <https://www.facebook.com/cluttermovement/>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote hoarding awareness.

- **Twitter**
 - When talking to a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic! More info: <http://bit.ly/2biX0g2>
 - Hoarding increase fire risks for residents and creates a danger for the fire service. For more info, go to: <http://bit.ly/2biX0g2>
 - Reach out to community resources about hoarding if you see in your area. Go here for more info: <http://bit.ly/2biX0g2>
- **Facebook**
 - Do you have a person in your life who may be a hoarder? Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered. It may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns. In addition, there are many fire safety concerns. For more info, go here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/hoarding-and-fire-safety>
 - In dealing with hoarding, help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home. For more info, go here:

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/hoarding-and-fire-safety>

- When talking a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding. While in the residence, install working smoke alarms in the home and talk to the resident about testing the alarms once a month. For more info, go here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/hoarding-and-fire-safety>

Educator Tip: Hoarding has long been a problem, but has only recently been in the public eye as a safety hazard. Because of this, there are many factors to consider when tackling the issue of hoarding in your community. Increasingly there are more and more community organizations starting up devoted to helping folks deal with hoarding. Some of these organizations focus on cleaning up the effects of hoarding, while some attempt to tackle the psychological issues of the resident that are at the heart of the problem.

As a fire department, accurate reporting and records are key to helping resolve the issue. Create a record of any homes in your area where hoarding may be present, also noting the degree of the hoarding. If there is a community organization in your area that handles hoarding cases, contact them with your records and see if there is any way your department can help further.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

What is hoarding?

Hoarding is defined as collecting or keeping large amounts of various items in the home due to strong urges to save them or distress experienced when discarding them. Many rooms in the home are so filled with possessions that residents can no longer use the rooms as designed. The home is so overloaded with things that everyday living is compromised.

Why do people become hoarders?

Hoarding is a mental disorder that can be genetic in nature, triggered by traumatic events, or a symptom of another disorder, such as depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, or dementia. Studies have found that hoarding usually begins in early adolescence and gets worse as a person ages. It is more common among older adults.

AUGUST: Week 3 – Select Fire-Safe Housing for College Students

Overview: As the fall semester approaches, colleges and universities are busy preparing for the arrival of students from across the state. Some will be first-time students moving into the residence halls, others may be moving off campus and living on their own, many for the first time. It is imperative that both off campus and on campus students understand fire risks and the importance of fire safety measures.

There are certain factors that are commonly present in fires involving college students. A lack of automatic fire sprinklers, missing or disabled smoke alarms, and careless disposal of smoking materials are all major factors in fires on and off campus. Students and parents should be aware of these factors and discuss how to reduce the risk they pose. The State Fire Marshal's Office encourages parents to remind their students to take fire drills and evacuations seriously and to be aware that fire safety is important at home and on and off campus. **Remember: September is Campus Fire Safety Month. It's not too soon to spread the word!**

Resources: The following resources are available:

- College Housing Security and Campus Safety
 - <https://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/0A531FE6/College-Housing-Security-and-Campus-Safety/>
- Campus and dorm fires (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/campus-and-dorm-fires>
- College campus fire safety (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/campussafetytips.pdf>
- Dorm fires infographic (NFPA)
 - [http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/images/public-education/by-topic/campus/campussafetyinfographic-\(2\).jpg](http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/images/public-education/by-topic/campus/campussafetyinfographic-(2).jpg)

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote campus fire safety.

- **Twitter**
 - Every campus related fire death in the past 5 years nationwide has been in off-campus housing. Always choose safe housing! @NFPA
 - Landlords and colleges are responsible for providing safe housing that includes working smoke alarms and two ways out of every room. @NFPA
 - A #FireSafe college student never: disables smoke detectors, hangs items from sprinklers, or blocks doors/windows. @TNCommerceInsur @NFPA
- **Facebook**
 - When choosing where to live on or off campus, make sure to select housing with fire sprinklers, interconnected smoke alarms, and an evacuation plan. For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/campus-and-dorm-fires>
- Students are responsible for maintaining safety in their housing: do not disable smoke detectors, do not hang items from sprinkler systems, do not block doors or windows. For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/campus-and-dorm-fires>

Educator Tip: If you have a college or university in your area, be sure to have a copy of their emergency preparedness plan on file, as well as the names and contact numbers of all personnel at the college responsible for safety and emergency response. Keeping these names and numbers up to date is crucial and can be useful in an emergency situation.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Consider the following before moving in or signing a lease:

- Are working smoke alarms installed? In Tennessee, landlords are required by state law to install working smoke alarms in their rental property. It then becomes the responsibility of the tenant to maintain the alarms. Test smoke alarms before moving in. Talk to the property owner about the maintenance needed for that particular model of alarm (some smoke alarms have batteries that need replacing annually, others are designed to last for 10 years). Stress to your college student the importance of having working smoke alarms and the dangers posed by disabling or removing batteries from smoke alarms.
- Are there at least two ways to exit the bedroom and the building?
- Do the upper floors of the building have at least two interior stairs or a fire escape?
- Is a sprinkler system installed and maintained? Fire sprinkler systems respond quickly and effectively to a fire, often extinguishing it before the fire department arrives.
- Does the building have a fire alarm system installed and maintained?
- Does the sprinkler system or fire alarm system send a signal to the local fire department or campus security?
- Are the existing electrical outlets adequate for all of the appliances and equipment the student has without the need for extension cords?
- Are there EXIT signs in the building hallways to indicate accessible escape routes?
- Are there couches or upholstered furniture on the front porch or deck? Many student housing fires have started on couches and then spread into the house.
- Has the building's heating system been inspected recently (in the last year)?
- Is the building/home address clearly posted to allow emergency services to find it quickly in the event of an emergency?

AUGUST: Week 4 – Fire Safety for People with Disabilities

Overview: There's no place like home. It is a place to relax, share laughs with family, and enjoy home cooked meals. But did you know that the majority of fire deaths occur in the home? It is important to help everyone in the home stay safe from fire.

Here are some fire safety resources to help educate people with disabilities.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Fire safety for people with disabilities (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities>
- Home safety for People with Disabilities tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/disabilitysafetytips.pdf>
- Safety videos in ASL (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities/videos-in-american-sign-language>
- Electrical safety messages in ASL (YouTube)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_7RFiv7_lw
- Educational materials for people with disabilities
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities/educational-materials>
- Fire safety outreach materials for people with disabilities
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities/educational-materials>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote fire safety for people with disabilities*

- **Twitter**
 - Include everyone in home escape planning. Everyone needs to know how to escape! For more info, go here: <http://bit.ly/2xRVkIN>
 - Did you know smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard or hearing? For more info, go to: <http://bit.ly/2xRVkIN>
- **Facebook**
 - There's no place like home. It is a place to relax, share laughs with family, and enjoy home cooked meals. But did you know that the majority of fire deaths occur in the home? Help everyone in the home stay safe from fire. For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities>
 - Did you know smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard or hearing? For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities>

Educator Tip: The *Get Alarmed, TN* program has deaf/hard of hearing smoke alarms available for fire departments to install in residences. You must already be participating in the "Get Alarmed, TN" program and have the address of the resident available before requesting one. To request a deaf/hard of hearing smoke alarm, go to www.tn.gov/fire.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

- Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even put out a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive. In choosing an apartment or purchasing a home, look for a residence that has home fire sprinklers.
- Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button. If you can't reach the alarm, consider getting alarms that you can test with a flashlight or a television remote.
- For added safety, interconnect all the smoke alarms so that when one sounds they all sound. This gives everyone more time to escape.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. They can be helpful for people who have difficulty changing batteries.
- Smoke alarms and alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are deaf. Strobe lights throughout the home are activated by smoke alarms and alert people who are deaf to fire conditions. When people who are deaf are asleep, a high intensity strobe light is required along with a pillow or bed shaker to wake them up and alert them to fire conditions.
- Accessories are also available for people who are hard of hearing. These accessories produce a loud, mixed low-pitched sound. This equipment is activated by the sound of the smoke alarm and is usually installed next to the bed. People who are deaf may find that a pillow or bed shaker is also helpful to wake them.
- Include everyone in planning and practicing home fire drills. People with disabilities can provide input on the best methods for them to escape.
- Keep a phone by your bed for emergency calls in case you become trapped and are unable to escape.
- If you live in an apartment, meet with your building manager. Request a copy of the building evacuation procedures. Ask about the emergency evacuation drills and insist on being included. Learn about the accommodations that have been made to meet your needs for evacuation assistance.
- Contact your local fire department about concerns for your safe evacuation. Ask them about the search and rescue procedures for your building.
- Develop relationships with neighbors, who can be trusted to be "buddies" in the event you need assistance with evacuation. Be sure to have multiple back-up plans in case the buddy isn't available at the time of the emergency.
- Learn the location of the exit stairwells and all routes out of the building. Know the number of doors between your apartment and the nearest exits.

SEPTEMBER 2019

EVENTS:

- Firefighter Safety Month
- National Campus Safety Month
- Deaf Awareness Month
- Tennessee Fire Loss Symposium
- Tennessee Carbon Monoxide Awareness Day, September 18th
- *Get Alarmed, TN* Events: one (1) canvass

MONTHLY THEME: “Campus Fire Safety”

EDUCATOR TIP: Consider having a "Best Fire Drill" Award. Every month when all the schools in your city have completed their required drills, present the award to the fastest, most organized, most improved, etc. school.

September 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Two Ways Out/Escape Planning

Week 2 – Smoking

Week 3 – Carbon Monoxide Safety

Week 4 – Call 911 for Emergencies

Tennessee Fire Loss Symposium

National Fire Service History

- September 2, 1888 Baltimore Building Collapse (7 firefighter deaths)
- September 6, 1896 - Michigan Opera House Collapse (5 firefighter deaths)
- September 20, 1902 - Birmingham Church Fire (115 deaths)
- September 11, 2001 - Terrorist Attacks (3000+ killed including 343 firefighters)

Tennessee Specific History

- September 24, 1904 - New Market, Tennessee Train Wreck
- September 20, 1965 - Tennessee Fairgrounds Fire
- September 25, 2003 - Nursing Home Fire kills 15 at NHC Nursing Home, Nashville (no sprinklers; lack of smoke alarms in residents' rooms)
- September 28, 2010 – Home fire kills 5 in Atoka
- September 18, 2011 - 5 people lose their lives in Clarksville when carbon monoxide fumes from a generator seep into their rented RV.
- September 12, 2016 – 10 people die in a home fire in Memphis.

SEPTEMBER: Week 1 – Two Ways Out/Escape Planning

Overview: In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy. Planning “two ways out” of every room is so important, while also reinforcing that everyone needs to have an escape plan.



Resources: The following resources are available:

- Home Fire Escape Plan Checklist & Map
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- “Plan 2 Ways Out!” Infographic
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17infographic.png>
- Escape Planning Tip Sheet flyer
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
- “Plan Your Home Fire Escape” 10-Minute Mini-Lesson
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw1710minutelessonplanescape.pdf>
- “Plan 2 Ways Out Of Every Room” Coloring Sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17coloringsheet.pdf>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to spread the “two ways out” message:

- Twitter
 - Home escape plans save lives! Learn how to develop one with all members of your household. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
 - Know 2 ways out of every room in your home! Hint: It’s usually a door and a window. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
 - 71% of Americans surveyed say they have an escape plan, but less than half have practiced it. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
 - Download the @NFPA home escape planning tip sheet & keep your family safe! <http://ow.ly/cDRt30bbWLM>
- Facebook
 - Would you and your family members know what to do in a real fire situation? Develop a home escape plan together and practice it. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
 - It’s 2:00 o’clock in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. If you’re not sure what you’d do next, it’s time to learn! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
 - In a fire, working smoke alarms alert you in time to escape safely. Make sure you know how to use those minutes wisely. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it twice a year with all members of your household! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>

Educator Tip: Plan a mini lesson specifically on escape planning when you are teaching fire safety at a local school. Reaching children can be a very effective way to get fire safety messages in the home, as usually the children will bring the important pieces of information back home to their parents. Make sure to hit on all the points regarding how little time there is to get out of the house and how to have two ways out of every room. For help, use this mini lesson guide:

<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw1710minutelessonplanescape.pdf>

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Home Fire Escape

4.1.2 Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

4.1.7 Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

SEPTEMBER: Week 2 – Smoking

Overview: Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires in Tennessee. If you smoke in your home, you put your entire household at greater risk of fire. Between 2013 and 2017, fire departments responded to 626 structure fires started by cigarettes, resulting in over \$16.5 million worth of property damage. In addition, 68 Tennesseans died in smoking related house fires between 2013 and 2017, almost 14 per year.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Smoking (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking>
- Smoking & Home Fire Safety tip sheet (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~/-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/smokingsafety.pdf>
- Smoking Material Safety Tips
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmEN_mLbQAK
- Fact sheet on smoking materials
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~/-/media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/smokingfactsheet.pdf?la=en>
- Smoking fire safety outreach materials
 - <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoking.html>
- Smoking and Fire Safety (USFA)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKxEGq_u6cM

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote smoking safety.

- **Twitter**
 - Don't smoke with medical oxygen present! There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
 - Between 2013-2017, almost 70 Tennesseans died in house fires started by cigarettes. Go here for more info: <http://bit.ly/2k7wQCB>
 - Tennessee FD's responded to over 600 house fires started by cigarettes b/t 2013 and 2017. Go here for safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2k7wQCB>
- **Facebook**
 - The place where we feel safest is where most smoking material related structure fires, deaths, and injuries occur. Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths. Smoking material fires are preventable. For smoking safety tips, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking>
 - Never smoke and never allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter. For more safety tips, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking>

Educator Tip: Preventing smoking fires is one of the most difficult tasks that fire departments can take on, especially in Tennessee where cigarette smoking and using tobacco products is popular. To help combat the problem of smoking fires, make sure that everyone in your area has a working smoke alarm.

Sign up to participate in the SFMO's *Get Alarmed, TN* program. This state-wide fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program started in 2012 and to date has distributed over 150,000 smoke alarms to participating fire departments. To get started, go to <http://tn.gov/commerce/article/fire-get-alarmed>, look under "Organization Administrators Toolbox" for information on how to get your department on board.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

Smoking

10.1.3 If you smoke, smoke outside.

10.1.4 Never smoke in bed.

10.1.5 Never smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

SEPTEMBER: Week 3 – Carbon Monoxide Safety

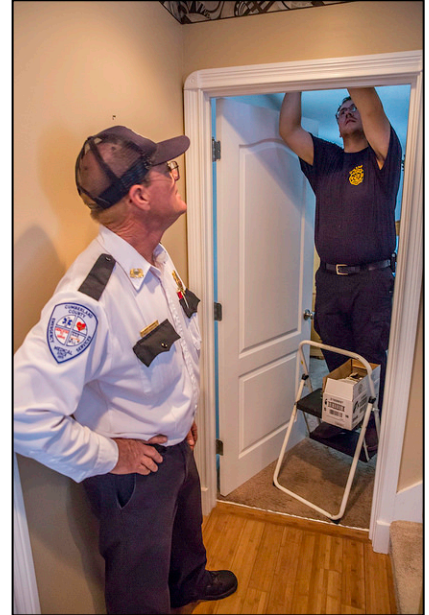
Overview: As Tennesseans pack up and head out to their favorite campsites, the State Fire Marshal's Office urges campers to be aware of carbon monoxide dangers in and around tents and RVs.

Carbon monoxide (CO), often called “the silent killer,” is an invisible, odorless gas created when fuels (such as kerosene, gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Carbon monoxide can result from a number of camping equipment, including barbecue grills, portable generators or other fuel-powered devices.

"Carbon monoxide levels from barbecue grills or portable generators can increase quickly in enclosed spaces," said State Fire Marshal Julie Mix McPeak. "Campers should keep and use these items in well-ventilated areas to avoid fumes leaking into the openings or vents of RVs and tents."

In September of 2011, five campers died in their sleep in Clarksville, Tennessee when fumes from a generator seeped into their rented RV. The RV's carbon monoxide detector, which could have prevented the deaths, was found to have no batteries.

As a result of this tragedy, rented RVs are now required by Tennessee law to have a functioning carbon monoxide detector before being leased for use. The bill also holds RV rental companies responsible if they fail to document and test the CO detectors in their leased vehicles. It is important to note that this law only applies to rentals. It is still imperative that personal RV owners stay diligent in testing and changing the batteries of the carbon monoxide detectors in their own campers.



Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include headache, nausea and drowsiness. Extremely high levels of poisoning can be fatal, causing death within minutes. Anyone who suspects they are suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning should immediately move to a fresh air location and call 9-1-1 or the fire department.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- Carbon monoxide safety (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/fire-and-life-safety-equipment/carbon-monoxide>
- Carbon monoxide safety tip sheet
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/~/-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/COsafety.pdf>
- Carbon monoxide safety outreach materials
 - https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/carbon_monoxide.html
- Carbon Monoxide Awareness Day (Testimonial video from TDCI)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBFUcBHsbag>

Media Tools: Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote

- **Twitter**

- You can be poisoned by a small amt of CO over a long period of time or by a large amt of CO over a short amt of time <http://bit.ly/2fmDHla>
- Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless killer. For tips on how to protect your home, go here: <http://bit.ly/2fmDHla>
- **Facebook**
 - Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. For more info, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/fire-and-life-safety-equipment/carbon-monoxide>
 - Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home. For more safety tips, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/fire-and-life-safety-equipment/carbon-monoxide>

Educator Tip: Share the testimonial video linked above (also here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBFUcBHsbag>) regarding carbon monoxide safety.

Clarksville resident Christine Watson is raising awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning which claimed the lives of her daughter and son-in-law (Jon and Kathryn Watson Over) as well as their three friends (Jim Wall, Tim Stone and Allison Bagwell-Wyatt). On Sept. 18, 2011, those five people lost their lives when carbon monoxide fumes from a generator seeped into their rented RV at the Clarksville Speedway. The RV's carbon monoxide detector, which could have prevented the deaths, was later discovered to have no batteries.

"I hate to see another family have to go through the kind of heartache that my family has had to endure," said Watson. "I urge all Tennesseans to be aware of the risks of carbon monoxide and to check the batteries on their carbon monoxide detectors."

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas created when fuels (such as kerosene, gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Carbon monoxide can result from camping equipment, such as barbecue grills, portable generators or other fuel-powered devices. "I sincerely thank Christine Watson for her tireless efforts to help Tennesseans learn the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning and how tragedy can be prevented," said Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance Assistant Commissioner Gary Farley. "Bringing attention to this issue will undoubtedly help prevent future tragedies from occurring."

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

- Only use barbecue grills outside, away from all doors, windows, vents and other shelter openings. Lit or smoldering barbecue grills should never be taken inside a home, tent, or RV.
- Never use a fuel-powered lantern or portable camping stove inside a home, tent or camper/RV.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, vents and other building openings to prevent exhaust fumes from entering the home.
- Install and maintain CO alarms inside homes, campers and RVs to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.

SEPTEMBER: Week 4 – Call 911 For Emergencies

Overview: The number of 911 calls placed by people using wireless phones has significantly increased in recent years. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates about 70% of 911 calls are placed from wireless phones, and that percentage is growing.

As more Tennesseans eliminate landline phones from their homes, it's important to make sure that they adapt their emergency plans to allow for quick access to their mobile phones in the event of a fire.

While wireless phones are convenient and can be an important public safety tool, they also create unique challenges for emergency response personnel. Unlike landline phones, wireless phones are not associated with one fixed location or address. While the location of the cell site closest to the 911 caller may provide a general indication of the caller's location, that information is usually not specific enough for rescue personnel to deliver assistance to the caller quickly.

For many people, the ability to call 911 for help in an emergency is one of the main reasons they own a wireless phone. The prompt delivery of wireless 911 calls to local authorities is essential to promoting public safety. Minutes matter in the event of a fire. If a resident panics and is unable to locate or use their phone to report a fire, that time gap could result in a loss of life or property.

Resources: The following resources are available:

- 911.gov
 - <https://www.911.gov/whentocall911.html>
- Benefits of Next Generation 911 (YouTube)
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V76CawHj_So
- Next Gen 911 promo video (from TDCI)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKo8jLk2q7w>
- National Emergency Number Association
 - <http://www.nena.org/>
- False alarm activity in the U.S. (NFPA)
 - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/the-fire-service/fire-department-calls/false-alarm-activity-in-the-us>

Media Tools: *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote*

- **Twitter**
 - 911 is for emergencies only! Make sure you are using this important service appropriately. Go here for more: <http://bit.ly/2wZglc0>
 - When you call 911, have these four things: location, number, nature of emergency, and details. For more, go here: <http://bit.ly/2wZglc0>
- **Facebook**
 - In an emergency, dial 911 or your local emergency number immediately. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance. Examples include, a fire, a crime, especially if in progress, a car crash, especially if someone is injured, and a medical emergency, especially symptoms that require immediate medical attention. For more info, go to: <https://www.911.gov/whentocall911.html>
 - When you call 911, be prepared to answer the call-taker's questions, which may include: the location of the emergency, including the street address; the phone number

you are calling from; the nature of the emergency; details about the emergency, such as a physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, a description of any fire that may be burning, or a description of injuries or symptoms being experienced by a person having a medical emergency. For more info, go here: <https://www.911.gov/whentocall911.html>

Educator Tip: Make sure all residents in your response area know the appropriate number to call in case of an emergency. If you think your residents may not be aware of the correct number to call, talk to your local newspaper or radio about putting out a brief public service announcement that explains the number to call and when to call it.

NFPA/SFMO Messaging:

In an emergency, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately from any wired or wireless phone. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance. Examples include:

- A fire
- A crime, especially if in progress
- A car crash, especially if someone is injured; or
- A medical emergency, such as someone who is unconscious, gasping for air or not breathing, experiencing an allergic reaction, having chest pain, having uncontrollable bleeding, or any other symptoms that require immediate medical attention

If you're not sure whether the situation is a true emergency, officials recommend calling 911 and letting the call-taker determine whether you need emergency help.

When you call 911, be prepared to answer the call-taker's questions, which may include:

- The location of the emergency, including the street address
- The phone number you are calling from;
- The nature of the emergency; and
- Details about the emergency, such as a physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, a description of any fire that may be burning, or a description of injuries or symptoms being experienced by a person having a medical emergency

Keep the following tips in mind to ensure that emergency responders can reach you and your loved ones quickly in the event of a fire or other emergency:

- Make a habit to place your cell phone close by in a convenient and consistent location so that it can easily be found.
- Keep cell phones charged at all times.
- Make sure children know to go to a neighbor's home (or an approved nearby location) to call 911 if they are unable to access a phone in their own home.
- Make sure you (and your children) can provide an address or solid description of your location, even when traveling.
- Tell the emergency operator the location of the emergency right away.
- Provide the emergency operator with your wireless phone number, so if the call gets disconnected, the emergency operator can call you back.

Be prepared to follow any instructions the call-taker gives you. Many 911 centers can tell you exactly what to do to help in an emergency until help arrives, such as providing step-by-step instructions to aid someone who is choking, needs first aid, or CPR.

Finally, do not hang up until the call-taker instructs you to.

If you dial 911 by mistake, or if a child in your home dials 911 when no emergency exists, do not hang up. Emergency 911 officials may think that an emergency exists, and possibly send responders to your location. Instead, simply explain to the call-taker what happened.

SUBJECT INDEX

Education Topic	Page #
Arson Awareness	76-77
Building Safety	80-82
Campfire Safety	90-91
Candle Safety	31-32, 51-52
Carbon Monoxide Safety	117-118
Christmas Tree Safety	29-30
"Close The Door!"	18-19, 65-66, 95-96
College Student Safety	108-109
Cooking Safety	10-11, 22-23, 33-34, 52-54
Electrical Hazards	20-21
Escape Planning	61-62, 65-66, 97-98, 113-114
Emergency Dialing	119-121
Fire Safety for Children	55-56
Fire Safety for Older Adults	104-105
Fire Safety for People with Disabilities	110-111
Fire Sprinklers	12-13, 80-82
Fireworks Safety	92-93
Halloween Safety	14-15
Heating Safety	24-26, 38-39, 43-44
Hoarding	106-107
Hotel/Motel Safety	83
Hydrogen Cyanide & Toxic Gases	70-71
Manufactured Home Safety	45-47
Marina/Boating Electrical Safety	85-87
Matches and Lighters	101-102
Medical Oxygen and Fire	63-64
New Year's Safety/Public Assembly	35-36
NFPA Fire Prevention Week Theme	8-9
Outdoor Burning	68-69
Outdoor Grilling Safety	88-89
Scalds and Burns	49-50
Security Bars	74
Smoke Alarms	58-60, 78-79
Smoking	115-116
Stop, Drop, Cover and Roll	99-100
Wildfire Preparedness	72-73
Winter Weather	40-42

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Get Alarmed, TN **Smoke Alarm Program**

The Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is on a mission to prevent home fire deaths in Tennessee! Using grant funds awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the SFMO purchased 20,000 smoke alarms in November 2012 to be distributed to fire departments and installed in at-risk homes across the state as part of their *Get Alarmed, TN* program. The response to this effort was so great that the SFMO continued to fund the program. Since the program's inception, over 150,000 smoke alarms have been distributed across Tennessee.

In order to receive these 10-year battery smoke alarms, fire departments need to access the SFMO's train-the-trainer course on smoke alarm installation. Fire departments that do not have the staff resources to install the alarms are encouraged to present the training course to civic, church, or community service groups in their area and designate a portion of their alarm supply to those groups for installation within the community. It is important to note that the goal of this program is not to simply hand out alarms, but to install the devices in homes in need across the state while educating residents of fire safety measures.

As of the date of this publication, the *Get Alarmed, TN* program has been credited with saving the lives of 188 Tennesseans; demonstrating that working smoke alarms can and will save lives. The State Fire Marshal's Office wants all Tennesseans to have these vital devices in their homes.

For further details on the program, including an installation map showcasing statewide progress, visit <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/get-alarmed-tn.html>

If your department is interested in participating in the *Get Alarmed, TN* program, please contact Alex Daugherty with the SFMO at 615-574-0240 or alex.daugherty@tn.gov. Members of the public interested in smoke alarm installations should first contact their local fire department, as many of these departments may already have smoke alarms available through this program.

Summary of Tennessee Law Regarding Smoke Alarms and Rental Property

Apartments:

Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-112

The following information only applies to hotels and apartment buildings with three or more living units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities, but does not apply to condominium projects.

Hotels must install approved smoke detectors in every room that is used for sleeping. The owner or manager of a hotel is responsible for performing all maintenance, repairs, and tests necessary to ensure that the smoke detectors are functional at all times.

It is unlawful to own or operate an apartment building without installing an approved smoke detector in every living unit within the apartment building. Apartment owners must install approved smoke detectors in every living unit, and the smoke detector must be heard in every sleeping room in the living unit when activated. Smoke detectors must be maintained by the residents living in the units. Upon termination of the lease, the owner of the unit must ensure that the smoke detector works properly before another tenant moves in to the unit.

It is illegal to tamper with or remove any smoke detector or a component of a smoke detector required by the above cited laws.

9-Volt Battery Dangers

The problem

- 9-volt batteries can be dangerous. The positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.
- It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.
- Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash cans when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

Storing 9-volt batteries

- Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- Store batteries standing up. 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer.
- Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

Disposing of 9-volt batteries

- 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.

- To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.

Some states do not allow any type of battery to be disposed of in the trash. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of batteries.

1 and 2 Family Rental Units:

Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 68-102-151(b)(1) and 68-102-151(d)(1)

A one-family or two-family rental unit means any rental building containing one (1) or two (2) living units with independent cooking and bathroom facilities, whether designated as a house, cottage, duplex, condominium or by any other name.

It is unlawful to own or operate a one-family or two-family rental unit without installing an approved smoke detector in each living unit. It is the responsibility of the owner/landlord of the rental property to install a smoke detector in each living unit. The smoke detector must be heard in every sleeping room in the living unit when it is activated. It is the responsibility of the tenant to maintain the smoke detector. However, upon termination of a tenancy, the owner shall ensure that any required smoke detector is operational prior to reoccupancy.

Using NFIRS/TFIRS to document fireworks-related incidents

1. Basic Module: To collect information common to all incidents. The amount of information needed in each module varies based on type of incident, associated casualties, and property losses.

- Incident Type:
 - o 243 Fireworks explosion (no fire), included are all classes of fireworks.
 - o Fires that occur as a result of fireworks should use incident types in the 100 series(fires), then the heat source should be documented.
 - o Injuries that occur as a result of fireworks should use the incident types in the 300 series. Remember you will need to complete the EMS Module, see below.

2. Fire Module:

- Heat Source Codes:
 - 54 Fireworks. Included are sparklers, paper caps, party poppers, and firecrackers.
 - 50 Explosives, Fireworks, other

2. Wildland Fire Module:

- Heat Source Codes:
 - 54 Fireworks, Includes sparklers, paper caps, party poppers, and firecrackers
 - 50 Explosive, fireworks, other
- Activity of Person involved:
 - 21 Fireworks use

3. Arson Module:

- Incendiary Devices:
 - 16 Pyrotechnic Material
 - 17 Explosive Material

- Age and Gender – Very important to document age and gender.

4. EMS Module:

- Cause of Illness/Injury Codes:
 - 25 Fireworks, injuries caused by pyrotechnics designed for or used for display purposes. Includes consumer fireworks.
 - 21 Explosives. Includes all injuries related to explosives. Excludes fireworks (25)
- Human Factors:
 - 8 Unattended or unsupervised person, Includes person too young/old to act
- Other Factors:
 - 1 Accidental

Public Education Resource Links

- **State Fire Marshal's Office (SMFO) website:** <http://www.tn.gov/fire/>
 - See the latest state fire death count
<https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/fire-fatalities-and-mortality-rate-in-tn.html>
 - Access the Monthly Education Plan
 - See results of statewide contests
 - Get info on *Get Alarmed, TN*: <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/get-alarmed-tn.html>
 - Get contact info for all of the divisions of the SFMO
 - Check out the SFMO Facebook page & Twitter account:
<http://www.facebook.com/TennesseeCommerceAndInsurance>
<https://twitter.com/TNCommerceInsur>
 - Sign up for FIREcomm, the official communications portal for the SFMO. Be sure to mark the public education section so that you can receive a regular spotlight on fire prevention, as well as weekly press releases you can share with your local media:
<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1818195/1775525/>
- **U.S. Fire Administration's website:** <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>
 - Access national statistics and fire safety tips
 - Get a limited number of free publications (brochures, coloring books, etc.) through the USFA once a year. You just need to create a free account. (Hint: Fire departments with multiple stations can create accounts for each station in order to receive more publications. Just be sure that each account has a different contact person name & address.) <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/publications/>
 - Get stock photos for presentations:
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/working_with_the_media/digital_assets/
 - FEMA Exchange – a searchable library of public education materials shared by organizations: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/library/collections/exchange.html>
 - Video PSAs: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL69D1444B992E92E8>
 - Join the “Fire Is Everyone’s Fight” Initiative:
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/fief/>
- **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website:** <http://nfpa.org>
 - Access national statistics and fire safety tips
 - Printable safety tip sheets on multiple topics: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets>
 - Videos/PSAs: <http://www.nfpa.org/press-room/public-service-announcements>
 - Free access to many of their education programs including “Remembering When” for older adults and “Learn Not to Burn” for children: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-public-educators/education-programs>

- **Other Programs/Events/Conferences**
 - **Statewide fire prevention poster contest:**
<https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/poster-contest.html>
 - Begins in August. Letters about the contest are mailed to the chiefs each year. Fire departments encourage students to create posters pertaining to the Fire Prevention Week theme. Entries are judged locally and then winners are submitted to the SFMO for state judging. Winners of the state contest receive a certificate signed by the Governor and \$50. They are also honored at an awards event in January.
 - **TN Excellence in Community Risk Reduction:**
 - The SFMO recognizes an individual that has shown outstanding dedication to community risk reduction and been an innovator and leader within their department, their community, or the State of Tennessee. Contact the SFMO at 615-574-0240 for more information.
 - **SFMO Fire Prevention Week Kick-off Event**
 - Held the Friday before Fire Prevention Week on the plaza of the Bicentennial Mall State Park in downtown Nashville. Fire departments from around the state join the SFMO in kicking-off Fire Prevention Week by hosting educational display and demos.
Contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 615-574-0240 for more information.