

Safety Newsletter

October 2023

ISSUE

"Self-insured Workers' Compensation Fund Members"

Fire Prevention Month October

Why is October fire safety month?

The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and week October 9th - 15th) is to raise fire safety awareness, and help ensure your home and family is protected. In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

Which of these is the leading cause of home fire deaths?

Smoking is the leading cause of deaths from home fires. In the months of December, January, and February, however, smoking ties with heating equipment fires in number of deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Cooking fires cause the most home fires and home fire injuries.



What are the fire safety tips?

Here are five tips to help you practice fire safety:

1. Check that all smoke and fire alarms are functioning properly. ...
2. Have an actionable fire plan. ...
3. Never leave a room with an open flame. ...
4. Have at least one fire extinguisher. ...
5. Embrace the cliché—Stop, Drop, and Roll.

What is the root cause of fire break out?

No single cause leads to accidental fires. Speaking broadly, fires are often the result of unintentional negligence, irresponsible behavior, or product or technology defects. Sometimes, they are unavoidable because they can be caused by an “act of God” such as a lightning strike.

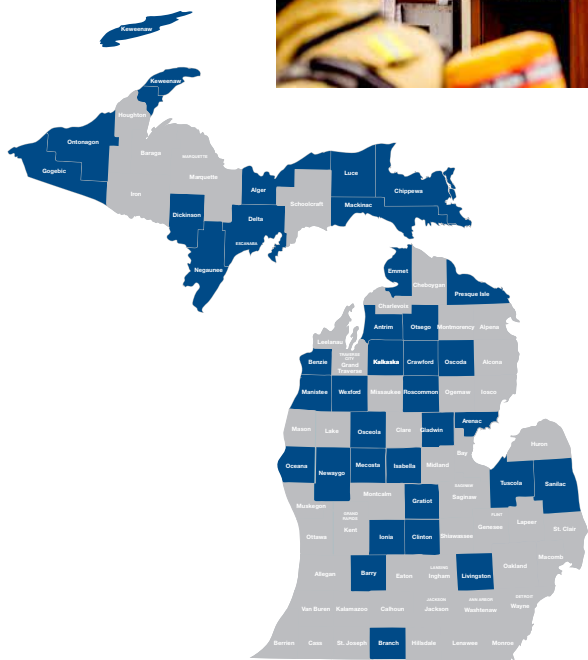
How can you prevent fire at home?

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF, LOVED ONES AND YOUR HOME

- Create and practice a fire escape plan. Include two ways out of every room.
- Pick a spot to meet outside.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms once a month.
- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms.

How can you prevent fires in the workplace?

Dispose of waste correctly and regularly – especially flammable materials. Store chemicals safely – and clean up spillages straight away. Keep fire doors closed – and ensure all fire exits are clear. Check electrical equipment and machinery often – and replace faulty items.



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What is the most common way a fire spreads?

Convection fires

Convection is the most common cause of fire spreading in domestic and commercial buildings and is also the most dangerous.

Where do most fires start in the home?

Kitchen

Home fires are more likely to start in the kitchen than any other room in the home. The second leading cause of home fires are heating sources like wood stoves, and fireplaces. Fires caused by smoking are the leading cause of deaths.

What appliance causes the most house fires?

Top 5 Kitchen Appliances that Cause Fires

1. Ranges and Stoves. By far, ranges are the most common cause of kitchen fires.
2. Dishwashers. If you've ever relied on the dishwasher heating cycle to dry your dishes, you know the amount of heat it can produce.
3. Refrigerators.
4. Microwaves.
5. Toasters and Toaster Ovens.

Is leaving appliances plugged in a fire hazard?

Did you know that leaving devices plugged in uses energy even while not in use? Other than having a higher electric bill, leaving your appliances plugged in can cause all sorts of hazards in your home, including increased fire risks.

Can an outlet catch fire with nothing plugged in?

An outlet can also catch fire even if nothing is plugged in. This can occur in homes that use aluminum wiring. If your house was built more than 50 years ago, chances are, it was built with aluminum wiring. Aluminum wires are more likely to catch fire, because aluminum is softer and expands more than copper.



What is a basic home fire safety?

Keep Flammable Items Away From Heat
Flammable items like fabrics, paper, and even hair should always be kept away from excessive heat or flame. You want to keep your hair and your clothes out of the way when you're starting a fire in your fireplace. You want to keep the stack of papers away from your wax melter.

What is a fire hazard at home?

overheated or overloaded electrical wire, cigarette ashes, smoldering ashes in the couch, sparks from the fireplace, unattended. outdoor fires and barbecues, appliances in poor repair. and unattended cooking in the kitchen.

What kills people in house fires?

The most common mechanism of death was carbon monoxide poisoning (65%), followed by inhalation of smoke or gases other than, or in addition to, carbon monoxide (16%). Most deaths (93%) occurred within 24 hours of the fire.

What are the 4 behaviors of fire?

Fire behavior can be characterized as the manner in which a fire reacts to the interaction of fuel, weather, and topography - the "fire behavior triangle." The four main parameters used to describe fire behavior include:

1. Rate of spread
2. Fire-line intensity
3. Flame length
4. Flame height

What are three rules for preventing fires?

Top Tips for Fire Safety

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms every month.
- Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.

If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP.

Who is responsible for fire safety in a workplace?

Who is responsible for fire strategy? As laid out in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, employers, owners or landlords are responsible for the fire safety of anyone working or living on their premises.

What are the 4 main fire extinguishers?

The six main fire extinguisher types are water, foam, CO2, powder, water mist and wet chemical.

What size fire is too big to tackle yourself?

Make sure the fire is small.

The flames should never be taller than you and should not cover an area that is bigger than 60 square feet. 60 square feet is about the size of a king size bed (42.15 square feet), so don't try to tackle a fire that is much bigger than that.

How long does it take for a fire to spread in a house?

Five minutes!

A fire can become life-threatening in just two minutes. A residence can be engulfed in flames in five minutes.

Do most fires happen at night?

Fire Risk at Night

According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), 80% of all fire deaths in North America are the result of house fires. And according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 51% of all deaths from residential fires occur between 11 pm and 7 am, when most people are sleeping.

Do candles cause house fires?

Candles cause an estimated 15,600 fires in residential structures, 150 deaths, 1,270 injuries, and \$539 million in estimated direct property damage each year. Over half (55%) of home candle fires start because the candle is too close to some combustible material.

What day of the year has the most house fires?

The incidence of daily fires increases during and around four holiday periods: Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the winter holiday period that includes Christmas and New Year's. More fires are reported on July 4th than any other day of the year.

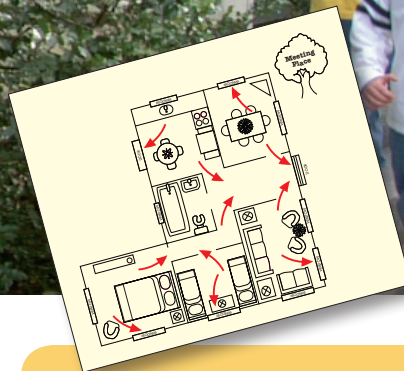
What is a fire checklist?

DIY Fire Safety Checklist

- Basement. Areas around furnace,
- Oil burner, wood stove,
- Other heat-generating equipment are clear of debris, combustible materials, and rags.
- Burner-access doors on the water heater are closed to prevent flame roll-out.
- Breaker panel has not been recalled nor recommended for replacement.

Escape Planning

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.



SAFETY TIPS

- » **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- » **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- » **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fill in the name and phone number for these important emergency contacts—and keep them handy!

Emergency coordinator _____

Response team leader _____

Fire _____

Police _____

Ambulance _____

