



Redfield Firefighter Banquet

The Redfield Fire Department, as well as many other surrounding departments, have many younger generations following in the footsteps of their older generations. It is a voluntary contribution from them to our city and rural areas of their time and education training hours that gives them the ability to put out or assist other departments in getting fires out as quickly and efficient as possible.



Above, L-R Gordon Schroeder-joined in 1967 -retired after 42 years of service on the Redfield Fire Department Tracy Schroeder-joined in 1990 Stefan Schroeder-joined in 2019.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Above, Captain Jessi Lewis presents Firefighter Of The Year certificate to Robert Brugger.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Above, Rookie Fire Fighter Of The Year certificate is presented to Steven Rernleitner by Captain Jessi Lewis



City Fire Dept. Rural Fire Dept.

THANKS

CLAE HOOTS

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Rural Fire Dept.

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Avoiding Field Fires During Fall Harvest

Written collaboratively by Ruth Beck, Laura Edwards fire as well. He said he fully expected it to take 5 years and Darren Clabo.

With dry and drought conditions in the late summer and fall, crops dry down rapidly and harvest starts early. The climate outlook may be favorable for an uninterrupted run at harvest. However, the risk of fires during harvest is always a concern for farmers.

Harvest Fires Affect Future Crop Production

Producers in the drier regions of South Dakota know that fires can not only result in losses of a combine or grain, but can also result in long-term production issues in fields. Fields where fires occurred are often left bare. This makes those areas susceptible to soil erosion from winter winds. Lost residue equates to lost nutrients and carbon that is held in the residue. Carbon is a substantial component of soil organic matter and can contribute to long term soil health. Winter snow catch is decreased and evaporation rate is increased in those areas where fires have destroyed crop residue. This directly correlates to yield loss in future years.

Yield loss can be documented. But losses of nutrients (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) from burned residue, along with soil loss from wind erosion, are more difficult to evaluate.

NE central SD producer, a long term no tiller, took residue samples from the non-burned and burned areas of his field after a fall fire burned through a large area of his field. The samples were submitted for analysis to a reputable private soils lab. The lab put a value of \$608.00/acre on the nutrient losses (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur). The producer also noted that yields on burned areas were 50% of yields on unburned areas for two years after the fire. Yield differences were substantial in the third year after the

for burned areas to return to full production, however substantial moisture the fourth year after the fire helped to mitigate the losses. In this situation the producer took extra steps to document his losses.

Harvest fires can occur in any crop, but some crops present increased risk during harvest. In 2011, SDSU researchers noted that sunflower head dust had a lower minimum ignition temperature, and was more easily ignited than corn stover. (The Sunflower, August/ September 2012).

Clean and Maintain Equipment

With harvest just beginning, producers are encouraged to take time to clean and maintain their equipment before starting.

Equipment should be checked over carefully. Look for worn bearings and other areas that could overheat. Wires that are damaged or have worn insulation are also cause for concern, as well as frayed belts. Check fuses, they should match recommended capacity.

Areas where chaff or plant material accumulate and build up should be thoroughly cleaned before harvest starts. This should also be done at regular intervals throughout harvest including before shutting down in the evening and periodically each day. Keep a leaf blower on hand so the combine operator can do this when necessary.

It is always a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher in the cab. However a second one on the outside of the combine may also be beneficial for others to reach if necessary. Make sure fire extinguishers are charged and in good working order.

The best solution to field fires is to try to avoid them. Producers know this and often have water tanks or trucks close by. Shutting down when conditions get too extreme are other common precautions designed to keep fires from starting are also important. If the threat of extreme dry conditions and combine fires persists, try nighttime harvesting, when humidity levels are higher.

High Fire Risk Weather

There are several weather factors that can lead to enhanced fire danger across South Dakota during the fall. These include Abnormally Dry or Drought conditions, little to no precipitation over a 2+ week timeframe, above average temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds.

Drought combined with short-term precipitation deficits prime the fuels to be receptive to both ignition and fire spread. If we then see weather with warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds, the environment becomes very favorable for large fire growth. Be sure to keep an eye on the forecast to watch for days with these conditions. Key in on cold fronts in the fall: often warm, dry, and windy conditions exist ahead of the cold front while cool, dry, and very windy conditions follow the frontal passage. Both pre-frontal and post-frontal conditions have historically brought large September and October fires to the state.

It is smart to watch the weather outlooks for one to two weeks in advance as well as to monitor the daily forecasts. Keep wildfire in mind when going about your day and do your best to prevent being the ignition source. Fires can start and spread quickly in harvest season, even without a Red Flag Warning or county burn ban in place.

If you do experience a fire be sure to take pictures and document, not just yield losses, but residue losses as well. Fires can impact fields for a number of years.



Rural Fire Dept.

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Top Five Halloween Fire Safety Tips

- 1. Use a battery operated candle or glow stick in your jack-o-lanterns.
- 2. When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.
- 3. Teach children to stay away from flames, including Jack –o-lanterns with candles in them.
- 4. Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- 5. Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costumes. Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms are working.

What Is the Leading Cause Of Home Fires Around The Holidays?

Holiday decorations

The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in more than two of every five incidents. Year-round, more than one-third of home decoration fires were started by candles. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, Christmas Eve, and the day before Thanksgiving. In 2016, fire departments around the U.S. responded to an estimated 1,570 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving. Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.

Below is a list of items to consider when preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday:

- Make sure the turkey is thawed completely before attempting to deep fry.
- When ice from a frozen turkey contacts a vat of

Halloween Haunted House Guidance

Prior to utilizing any structure for the purposes of a special amusement building, the owner/operator should contact the Permits Office and make sure that the building can be permitted and is properly zoned for the use of a special amusement building (Haunted House). A temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) may be issued by the Permits Office. However, all requirements in the fire code must be met. Additionally, a special amusement permit is required by the Fire Marshal's Office. A permit can be applied for by contacting them. Once allowed, the largest issue that comes up when performing inspections on special amusement buildings, such as haunted houses, is that they most often require fire protection systems. Some of the main issues encountered in these occupancies include a lack of fire alarm notification, sprinkler systems and exit signs.

hot oil, it expands over 1,700 times its original volume. This causes the oil to boil over and when the oil particle contacts a flame, a large eruption of flames, or a fireball, can occur.

Thanksgiving

- Ensure that you have an portable fire extinguisher on hand as you are frying a turkey.
- Do not use water to attempt to extinguish any type of oil fire.
- Ensure you dry the turkey (which is completely defrosted) to prevent displacement between the oil and the water mixing.
- Make sure that the propane tank and burner are separated by a minimum of two feet. Consider wrapping the hose in aluminum foil to prevent splattering hot oil from touching it.
- Turn off the burner if the oil begins to smoke. Be extremely vigilant in monitoring the temperature by using a temperature gauge.

• Place the fryer burner on a level surface clear of any combustible items, such as wood products or cardboard.





City Fire Dept. Chief Rural Fire Dept. Capt.

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There Are Actually Five Main Types of Fires

distinction between different types of fires, but knowing the difference could be life-saving.

Fires can be classified in five different ways depending on the agent that fuels them: Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D, and Class K.

and requires a special approach. In fact, trying to fight a blaze with the wrong method might make the situation

In most cases, knowing which type of fire extinguisher to use is crucial. Fortunately, using one can be pretty simple - the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association suggests remembering the acronym "PASS": Pull the pin, aim the nozzle from a safe difference, squeeze the handle slowly, and sweep the nozzle from side to side until the fire is out. When using an extinguisher, you'll want to aim low at the base of the fire.

That being said, if you keep a fire extinguisher in your home or place of work, you'll want to check its gauge monthly and be sure it is in working condition, You'll also want to check the extinguisher for damages and get it inspected if necessary. The worst time to find out your fire extinguisher's pressure is too low is when you need it the most.

Most importantly, you'll want to use the proper extinguisher when putting out a fire.

Class A fires are the easiest to put out. They involve solid materials like wood, paper, plastic, or clothing.

Class A fires are the most common type of fire and the kind that most of us are familiar with. They involve solid combustible materials such as wood, paper, cloth, trash, or plastic.

Most of us probably don't think much about the You might start Class A fires intentionally when lighting If possible, you should try to extinguish the flames using a match or starting a bonfire. An unintentional Class A fire could result from knocking over a candle, a stray spark from a fireplace, or a lightning strike on a tree.

Luckily, Class A fires are the easiest type to extinguish. The Fire Equipment Manufacturer's Association Each type of fire involves different flammable materials recommended using a water or foam fire extinguisher on Class A fires. You can also use water to douse the fire, as it can remove the fire's heat supply.

Class B fires involve flammable liquids like oil, alcohol, or gasoline.

Class B fires involve ignitable liquids or gases like petroleum grease, alcohol, paint, propane, or gasoline. But, this classification typically does not include fires involving cooking oils or grease.

According to Strike First, these types of fires might occur anywhere flammable liquids or gases are stored or used. It's very important not to use a water extinguisher on a Class B fire — the stream of water might spread the flaming material rather than extinguish it.

Class B fires should be extinguished using foam, powder, or carbon dioxide extinguishers, according to the Fire Equipment Manufacturer's Association. These types of extinguishers work by cutting off a fire's oxygen supply. Class C fires involve a source of electricity.

Class C fires involve electrical equipment. This type of fire might be started by old wiring in walls, frayed electrical cords, worn-out breaker boxes, or faulty appliances.

Electrical fires are very common in both homes and industrial settings. According to Strike First, the first thing you should try to do if an electrical fire starts is to disconnect the appliance or item from its power source only if it is safe to do so.

a carbon dioxide or dry powder fire extinguisher. If and when the power source is disconnected, the fire can become a different class of fire, typically Class A.

Do not try to put out an electrical fire with a water or foam extinguisher, as both of those materials can conduct electricity and potentially make the situation more dangerous.

Class D fires are rare, but can happen when a metal ignites.

It takes high levels of heat to ignite most metals, which makes Class D fires pretty rare outside of laboratories and industrial settings. According to University of Massachusetts Boston's Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Class D fires are oftentimes caused by alkali metals such as potassium, magnesium, aluminum, and sodium, as these can ignite when exposed to air or water. Although you're unlikely to face a Class D blaze in your home, the Fire Equipment Manufacturer's Association advised extinguishing these types of fires with a dry powder extinguisher only.

Dry powder extinguishers work on metal fires by separating the fuel from oxygen or removing the heat element of the blaze, but foam or water extinguishers can potentially increase the intensity of the flames and cause dangerous explosions, according to Imperial Systems.

Some fires might also be termed Class K or Class F if they involve cooking oils such as vegetable oil or animal

Although they are sometimes lumped in with Class B fires, the US Fire Administration considers blazes

Continued on page. 16



City Fire Dept. Capt. Truck #2 Rural Fire Dept.

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CHUCK'S BODY SHOP

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9 Ways to Heat Your House in an Emergency

you need a safe, reliable way to heat your home. Here are some of the best and safest alternative ways to heat your house.

Fire Up a Kerosene Heater

Kerosene is a traditional fuel used for heating for many years. And it can make a suitable alternative for emergency heating -but only with the right precautions. You will need to choose a smaller radiant heater designed for indoor spaces, preferably a "ventless" model that releases as few fumes as possible. Also it's a good idea to position the heater next to a window and open the window slightly. This helps get rid of fumes and the powerful smell.





Thick Clothing and Hand Warmers

When electricity goes out and you need heat, it's always more efficient to heat the body than trying to heat a room. That's why it's important to start with the basics. And pile on thick, insulating clothing and blankets. Anything with natural down fill will be particularly adept at keeping you warm. Also, you should combine this with chemical hand warmers (you can keep them in pockets or tucked

If your electricity is out for a while in the colder months, into the waist) to increase the heat closer to the body. This is a safe, effective way to keep your family warm.

Create a Designated Heated Room

Choose one room where everyone can easily gather, and make it your designated warm room. And cover vents, windows, and doors to other areas with blankets, and make sure the room is properly insulated. When you use heating sources, keep them in this room. Set up mattresses for sleeping here as well if necessary.





Set Up a Wood Stove by the Window

If you are out of heat for the long term but have plenty of wood to use as fuel, you can set up a portable wood stove in your home. And the key is to set it up by a window and construct a pipe chimney to channel all the smoke out. However, this takes time, but you'll have a reliable source for heating and cooking.

Build a Candle Heater

Candles alone are not the best source of heat when looking for ways to heat your house in an emergency. They don't produce a lot of warmth, and they introduce a fire hazard into the house. However, if you don't have



any other source of heat and you need some type of heater, you can build a simple candle heater with a couple of clay pots. And keep in mind that this heater still presents a fire danger, so keep it well out of the reach of kids, pets and clumsy adults.

Use a "Catalytic" Gas Heater

Catalytic gas heaters heat up an element, which in turn radiates heat out into an area. And modern models are very efficient and can heat enclosed spaces, including





RVs. However, it is still probably safer to position them next to a slightly open window. Note that these models typically require propane tanks for proper use, and like furnaces, they require proper maintenance.

Cans of Biofuel

Fuel gel cans are nothing new, but these biofuel cans are far more eco-friendly, heat just as well. And are suitable for emergencies when it comes to minor heating tasks. The fumes produced are negligible, and you can use them to create an emergency heater.

Continued on next page.



Rural Fire Dept.

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APPEL'S QUICK STOP

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Soapstone Heaters

Soapstone is a very reliable absorber of heat and it doesn't



easily overheat. So set up a portable soapstone block next to a heat source like a stove or heater, and they will quickly absorb the heat and then radiate it back outward for hours to come. And they make great bed warmers when looking for ways to heat your house, and are suitable for other satellite heating needs during emergencies, without the danger of fire.

Small Wind Systems for Heating

If you have electricity that isn't always reliable, consider investing in an alternative power source. And there's not much solar energy available in winter, but there's often wind. But a small wind electrical system can help you generate enough power for basic tasks like heating, and it can help you avoid the worry that comes with power outages. Plus, these wind systems are more eco-friendly

than emergency generators, and they're not reliant on external fuel sources.





Christmas and Holiday Decorating

More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles. Decorations are usually placed too close to a heat source.

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Read carefully when selecting lights. Some lights are only for indoor. If you are using lights outside of your home please make sure they are outdoor ready lights.

Continued on page. 8



City Fire Dept.

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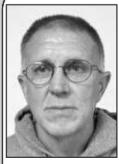
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2022 Fire Prevention Holiday Decorating/ from pg. 7

- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken voung children do not touch them. cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stove heat vents or lights. top.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so daily.

- cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. A heat source cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's too close to the tree causes one in every four of the fires.
- When picking the tree, choose a tree with fresh, Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about green needles that do not fall off when touched
 - Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from leaving home or going to bed. the base of the trunk.
 - Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles,
 - Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
 - Replace any string of lights with worn or broken instructions for number of light strands to connect.
 - Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
 - Always turn off Christmas tree lights before
 - Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



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It's the middle of the night, and a faint crackling sound Over the years, smoke detectors have saved countless has woken you from sleep. You smell smoke and open lives, and they provide an early warning that can give your bedroom door to investigate. Suddenly, you're blasted with heat and the eerily bright orange light of a raging fire in the hallway.

Would you know what to do in such a horrific situation? Do you have the tools and know-how to keep your family and pets safe if a house fire occurs?

Most people don't realize how little time they have you have a smoke alarm in the kitchen. However, it needs to get out of a house fire safely. It may only takes 30 seconds for a house fire to become life-threatening, and most people have less than two minutes to escape before they're completely trapped.

But there are many fire safety tips you can use to protect your family and home and avoid a tragedy.

Most of us assume a house fire won't happen to us. batteries during daylight saving time and test smoke However, house fires are fairly common. Fortunately, there are many steps you can take to protect your family and home from the devastation of fire.

1. **Install Smoke Detectors**



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you and your family enough time to escape. You should have working smoke detectors installed on every level of your home. It is Recommended to install one inside every sleeping room and an additional smoke detector outside each sleeping area. Wire all of them together, if possible, so if one goes off, they all go off, Its also recommended to be at least 10 feet away from cooking appliances to minimize false alarms. It's also smart to install smoke detectors that detect carbon monoxide. That's especially important if you have a wood stove or fireplace you use in the winter. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends you change the detectors monthly to make sure they're still working. To prevent false alarms, keep your detectors clean and free of cobwebs and dust. Replace these smoke alarms every 10 years.

Install Fire Extinguishers & Fire Ladders

You should have a fire extinguisher on every level of your home, including the basement and garage, and an extra one in the kitchen. Install your fire extinguishers high on the wall so they're easily accessible and away from children.

You also need to know how to use your fire extinguishers Read the directions and become familiar with how they operate since you won't have time to learn how to use them when a fire breaks out. Call your local fire department to see if they offer any training for homeowners to use a fire extinguisher.

Additionally, try to stick with one manufacturer for all your fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers from different manufacturers operate differently, and having different instructions for each extinguisher can be confusing if a fire breaks out.

Continued on next page.



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ODLAND CONSTRUCTION

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City Fire Dept. Rural Fire Dept. Asst. Chief

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aim low (toward the base of the fire), squeeze the lever route. slowly and evenly, and sweep back and forth.

least two fire ladders upstairs kept in separate rooms just in case one room is inaccessible due to fire. Show older children how to set up the fire ladder at least once per year so all of you know how to use it safely.

Plan Your Escape

A home fire escape plan is essential because when a fire breaks out, every second counts. Remember, a fire can turn life-threatening in 30 seconds. And the majority of everyone is asleep, so your family needs to know what to do before an emergency happens. Before the worst happens, make sure everyone in your family knows how to get out and that there's nothing to stop that from happening.

Create a Fire Escape Plan

To make a home fire escape plan, start by drawing your home's floor plan using the NFPA's escape grid. Find at and map them on the grid.

Talk with your family, including young children, about how they can escape each room of the house. Showing them your home's floor plan can help children better visualize where they should go in case of fire. Designate a meeting place outside your home where everyone will gather. It can be a tree well away from your home's structure or a neighbor's front porch.

Next, practice escaping each room with your family with a fire drill. Follow these steps from the Burn Institute Fire Safety Kid program to teach your family how to exit a fire safely.

Learn to Get Out of Bed. During a fire, it's best not to jump up the way you usually do. Instead, when the perform rescues.

If you have to use your fire extinguisher, remember to fire alarm goes off, roll out of bed and crawl to the escape Practice the fire drill in the dark with the smoke alarms

- Stay Low. At eye level, air temperatures can reach If you have a multiple-story home, you should have at 600 degrees F (315 degrees C) or hotter, which can scorch your lungs and melt your clothing. The air near the floor can be as cool as 100 degrees F — hot but survivable. The air will also be less smokey near the floor. Crawl as low as you can on the floor to stay away from smoke. If your escape route involves going downstairs, don't get up. Slide down the stairs on your belly or go down on your hands and knees.
- Learn to Touch Doors Safely. Touch the door with the back of your hand or lightly touch the doorknob. fires break out late at night or early in the morning when If the door feels cool, use your body as a brace and open the door slightly, just enough to check for smoke. If there is no smoke, exit the room and follow your home's escape route. If there's smoke or fire in the hallway, close the door and leave the room through another door or window.
 - Practice Closing the Door Behind You. As you exit your home, close every door behind you. That can help slow the progression of the fire.
- Help Others. If you have infants, people with least two escape routes out of every room in your home, mobility challenges, or older adults living in your home, assign someone in your family to help them get out of the house. If they can't get to them because of the fire, they should exit the house and immediately inform firefighters. Staying only adds more risk for rescuers when they have two people to save rather than one.
 - Make Sure Everyone Knows 911. Everyone in your family should know how to dial 911 or the phone number for your local fire department to report a fire.
 - Never Go Back Inside. Ensure everyone in your family knows they should never — under any circumstances — go back into a burning building. If someone in your household is missing, inform firefighters doors. as soon as they arrive. They have the tools and skills to

going off since these are the most common conditions to experience a house fire in. Practicing a fire drill at night with the fire alarm sounding when the kids are asleep also helps you determine whether the alarm is loud enough to wake them. If the sound of the fire alarm doesn't awaken any children or adults, assign a family member to take charge of them during a real fire. Perform a realistic fire drill at least twice per year so your family stays comfortable with getting out quickly.

But preparing for a fire isn't over just because you know the route. You also have to make sure every point of EXIT is accessible in case someone needs to escape.

Check Your Home's Windows

Make sure everyone can easily open all the windows in your home and they can remove or kick away the screens. If your doors and windows have security bars, make sure the bars have emergency-release latches on the inside so someone can open them quickly during an emergency. Show your children how to use the emergency-release latch so they know what to do.

If windows are nailed or painted shut, remove the nails or paint so everyone in your family can get out.

Make Sure Your Home Is Visible

Go outside and make sure you can easily see your house number from the street. If you can't, paint your house number on the curb or install larger house numbers so firefighters or other first responders can easily find your home.

Clear Your Escape Route

You also need to go through your home's escape routes and clear these paths of any furniture or clutter that might slow or stop your family from getting out quickly.

Move televisions out of the way of windows or

Continued on next page.



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- open easily.
- remove them so the doorway is clear.
- During the holidays, don't put Christmas 5. Practice Open Fire Safety trees or other large decorations in front of doorways or windows.

If you use plastic insulation on your windows to lower your heating bill, make sure everyone in your family knows how to take it off so they can escape.

4. Use Space Heaters Safely

Portable space heaters can provide a convenient way to heat cold or drafty rooms in your home. However, they pose a significant fire risk. The CPSC estimates that space heaters cause 1,100 fires per year, resulting in 50 deaths. The NFPA reports that space heaters account for 43% of home heating fires and 85% of associated deaths. To use a space heater safely, follow these tips:

- Give It Space. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from your space heater. The heater also needs to be at least 3 feet away from curtains, furniture, beds, and papers.
- Don't Use Extension Cords. Space heaters should always plug directly into the wall. Never use an extension cord or power strip when operating a space heater.
- Don't Run It All Night. Never run your space heater while you're asleep or away from home.
- Check the Cord Often. Check the cord and plug of your space heater frequently to make sure there are no signs of melting or burning. You also need to check the wall outlet and faceplate for any signs of excess heat. Unplug the space heater and touch the outlet's faceplate with your hand to make sure it is cool to the touch. If it is warm or hot, discontinue use and call an electrician. Know that not all space heaters are safe. Check the

If any doors in your home are padlocked, take Consumer Reports guide for space heaters to see which 6. Check Electrical Safety these locks off and use locks anyone in your family can manufacturers and models are safest. Before you buy any model, make sure it is certified by a nationally If any doors are blocked by toys or clutter, recognized testing laboratory, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories).

Fireplaces and wood stoves can be a cozy and economical way to heat your home in winter. However, they also present a significant fire risk, the NFPA especially if you don't take safety precautions.

To operate your fireplace and wood stove safely and reduce the risk of a house fire, the NFPA recommends you to it recommends you clean your chimney each year. Schedule this cleaning and inspection in the late summer or fall, before you have to rely on your fireplace or wood stove for heat. You can find a certified chimney sweep in your area through the Chimney Sweep Safety Institute of America.

Once cooler weather comes, never leave an unattended fire burning in a fireplace or wood stove, and never leave children or pets in the room alone with a burning fire. Also, keep anything flammable at least 3 feet away from your fireplace or wood stove. If you have to leave the house, make sure the fire is completely out before you go. It's also smart to invest in a fireplace screen. Fireplace screens help keep burning embers from popping into the room and igniting something outside the 3-foot safety zone. A screen can also help protect children or pets from accidental burns, especially with wood stoves with glass windows.

You also need to consider candle safety. Never place lighted candles near any combustible material, such as curtains or pillows, and never leave a burning candle unattended. If children are in the room, place the candle on a mantle or open shelf out of reach.

Last, keep a fire extinguisher in a closet or on a shelf within easy reach of the fireplace or wood stove.

Fire Rescue says faulty electrical outlets and outdated appliances cause most electrical fires. If your electrical outlets are old, have them replaced by a master electrician.

There are several ways to identify electrical outlets in need of replacement:

- Warmth or Heat. Use your hands to feel the outlet. If you detect any warmth or notice signs of scorching or melting on the plastic, replace it immediately.
- Smoke. Smoke from any electrical outlet is an indicator it's a significant fire danger.
- Loose Connections. If any outlets are loose in the wall or they no longer hold a plug tightly (the plug falls out when plugged in), replace the outlet.
- Sounds. If you hear buzzing or popping sounds coming from an electrical outlet, turn off the power to that part of your home and immediately call a licensed electrician.
- Frayed Wires. Take off your electrical outlets' plastic covers and examine the wiring. Wires can crack or fray from age, heat, or bending. Nails or screws can also pinch them. If you see any damage to the outlet's wires, call an electrician.

Also check that you're not using more electricity than your circuits can handle. For example, if you're constantly tripping your home circuit breakers or you notice lights dimming when you use multiple outlets at once (such as using the vacuum cleaner and the microwave at the same time), call an electrician to examine your home's circuit breaker and make adjustments.

Lamps and light fixtures are another potential cause of house fires. Ensure the bulbs you have installed in every light and lamp in your home don't exceed the wattage recommended by the manufacturer.

Continued on next page.



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safely. Power strips temporarily add outlets to an area, while you can use surge protectors long-term to protect your electronic equipment from voltage spikes.

When it comes to power strips, only plug in light-load appliances, such as computers or lamps. Never use power strips on heavy-load appliances, like microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, or vacuum cleaners. They can overheat and ignite when you use them for extended periods. It's OK to use surge protectors for some heavy-load appliances, such as microwaves. But check the safety instructions or another expert source about individual devices. For example, a refrigerator may have mechanisms to protect itself from electrical surges, and a surge protector can interfere with those mechanisms and cause your refrigerator not to come back on when it's

7. Remember Natural Gas Safety

Many homes use natural gas for cooking, heating water, and to power the furnace. A leak in the natural gas lines or fittings could result in an explosion. Natural gas has no odor of its own, so they add an odorant that smells of rotten eggs for safety.

Last, make sure you use power strips and surge protectors inside the home. The sparks generated from the phone roll" if their hair or clothing catches fire and help them could cause an explosion.

If your furnace runs on natural gas, have it serviced annually by a licensed heating, ventilation, and air conditioning professional to ensure all the pipes and fittings are in good condition. It's also crucial you keep the area around your furnace clean by vacuuming dirt, dust, and debris and keeping the site free of clutter.

You also need to take precautions with your water heater. Water heaters are often in basements or closets, which people rarely clean. Never store combustible materials near your gas stove or water heater. That's especially important with solvents, such as paints and paint thinners.

8. Teach Your Children Fire Safety

If you have children, it's crucial you teach them what to do if a fire ignites in your home.

Explain What Smoke Detectors Do

Start by showing them where all the smoke detectors are and explain what they do. Next, let them hear what the smoke alarm sounds like when it goes off. It can be scary, especially for young children, so they need to hear it and get used to it when there is no emergency.

Practice "Stop, Drop, & Roll"

If you smell natural gas, get your family out of your home In addition to practicing your evacuation plan with your immediately and call 911. Never call for help while still kids, you also need to teach them to "stop, drop, and

practice the technique.

Teach Them Not to Hide

Many child fire deaths occur because the child tried to hide from the fire, typically in a closet or under the bed, or they tried to hide from firefighters, who can look scary in their firefighting gear, especially in the dark.

If you have young children, make sure they understand they cannot hide from a fire. They must get out as quickly as possible. Show them what firefighters look like with all their gear on. If possible, take them on a tour at your local fire department so they learn not to be afraid. You can also watch an online video, like the one starring Sparky the Dog, of what firefighters look like with all their gear on.

Make It Fun

Make learning about fires fun using learning materials at Sparky.org, the National Fire Protection Association's website for kids, or FireSafeKid.org, run by the Burn Institute. Both websites have interactive games and activities to help kids of all ages learn what to do during a fire.

Continued on next page.

Mellette Fire Department



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Frankfort Fire Department



FRANKFORT BAR AND GRILL

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9. Stav Safe in the Kitchen

According to the NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of residential fires. So it should come as no surprise the NFPA also found there are more fires on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year. The day before Thanksgiving and Christmas Day are a close second and third for residential fires.

To stay safe in the kitchen, focus on fire prevention.

- Make sure you never leave cooking food If the flame is small and manageable, another option unattended.
- stovetop first.
- If your hair is long, keep it pulled up so there is no risk of it catching on a hot pot or burning flame.
- Don't wear loose clothing or long, dangling jewelry, which might ignite if it gets too close to the smother the flames. range.
- Be extra careful if there are children in the home. Keep all pot and skillet handles turned inward so a child can't reach up and grab a hot pot.
- cooktop. That includes paper products, dish towels, wrappers, or oven mitts.
- Built-up grease can ignite quickly.

If a grease fire does ignite, never use water to put it out. would you have sufficient coverage for everything you The water will turn to steam and cause severe burns. It can also splatter the grease and cause the fire to spread.

To put out a small grease fire in a pot or skillet, the NFPA recommends sliding a pot lid over the flames and turning off the burner. Let the pan cool completely, and do not take off the lid until the pan is cool to the touch. Removing the lid too early could cause the fire to reignite.

from Fire Rescue 1 is to use baking soda or salt to put If you have to leave the kitchen, turn off the out the fire. However, never use other cooking powders, such as baking powder or flour to put out a flame. They have different chemical makeups and could make the fire

You can also use a fire extinguisher or fire blanket to

10. Check Your Insurance Coverage

Know how much of your "main dwelling" — your home's physical structure — your homeowners insurance covers in the event of a fire. It's known as "Coverage A" in the Keep any combustible material away from your breakdown of your homeowners insurance. It doesn't include the contents of your home or the land, but only the structure.

Clean up spilled grease as soon as it cools. Next, check that you have proper coverage of your personal property (Coverage C). If your house caught fire,

own? Does your policy cover the cash value of pricey personal possessions, such as jewelry or computers, or the replacement value? If you're a renter, make sure you have renters insurance to protect your personal property. If you feel like your policy doesn't provide adequate coverage, purchase additional coverage for peace of mind. It's also the perfect time to price-shop. PolicyGenius gives you quotes from multiple companies within minutes so you know you're getting the best rates on your homeowner's insurance.

Next, take pictures and make a video of everything in your home and on your property. Keep a copy of the pictures and video on a USB drive and store it at a friend's or family member's home. Also, email yourself a copy of the documents or use online storage. This information helps you provide the necessary evidence to prove what you lost in the fire.

You should also have a fireproof home safe or lockbox to store all your essential documents.

11. Be Extra Careful During Holidays

Winter holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas have the highest number of residential fires. These fires are also more deadly. The Insurance Information Institute

Continued on next page.

Chief Adam Hahler **Assistant Chief** Jason O'Daniel **Treasurer** David & Amber Jandel

Hitchcock Fire Department



R&R photo

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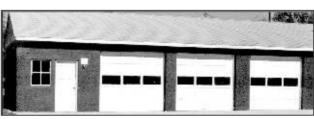
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Mike Jungwirth

David O'Daniel

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Austin Zens

Cory Pochop

Kenny Fehlman

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Galen Zens



reports that 1 in every 32 reported Christmas fires resulted less turkey fryer, like the Char-Broil Big Easy oil-less feet away from any heat source. in a death compared to 1 death in every 143 fires the rest of the year.

Be Careful With Turkey Fryers

Frying any type of food increases the risk of a kitchen fire, but turkey fryers are particularly dangerous. That's because you place them on a stand, which can easily tip over, and they require large amounts of boiling oil.

To reduce the risk of fire when using a turkey fryer, only use it outdoors on a stable surface. Make sure children and pets stay at least 3 feet away from the fryer at all times, and don't allow any rambunctious games — such as running or ball playing — anywhere near the cooking

Putting a turkey into an over-filled turkey fryer can cause the grease to spill and ignite. Before you fill your fryer with oil, put the turkey in and add enough water to cover it. Then, take out the turkey and note where the waterline is. That allows you to better estimate how much oil you need based on how much liquid the turkey displaces when it's immersed.

To make sure the oil doesn't overheat and start a fire, check the temperature frequently with a cooking thermometer. The oil should maintain a steady temperature of 350 degrees F (176 degrees C). You can also invest in an oil-

turkey fryer, for a safer and healthier way to cook your turkey.

Also, never put a frozen or partially thawed turkey into the hot oil of a turkey fryer. It will explode and send flames shooting out of the turkey fryer. Working with a local fire department, the CPSC filmed what happens when you put a frozen turkev into a turkev frver, and one watch will convince you to make sure your turkey is completely thawed and dried before dropping it in (segment starts at 0:53 seconds).

Monitor Your Christmas Tree

One of the reasons for the higher rate of fatalities is Christmas trees, which are highly flammable due to the sap content. The NFPA reports that lighting or electrical cords around the tree cause 44% of Christmas tree fires. If you put up a Christmas tree, make sure you water it every day. If the water level falls below the stump even once, a seal forms over the cut and the tree can no longer absorb water. Dried-out trees can catch fire within seconds and can catch walls or curtains on fire in less than a minute. This type of fire is also particularly deadly because it gets so hot so quickly.

That said, real Christmas trees are still safer than artificial trees as long as you keep them well watered and at least 3

Check Holiday Lights Annually

Many families hang holiday lights to add seasonal cheer to their homes. However, the NFPA reports that holiday lights can pose a fire danger if you're not careful. Follow these tips to use holiday lights safely.

- Don't Overplug. Don't plug more than three sets of lights into one extension cord, as that can cause overheating.
- Replace Damaged Lights. Before decorating your holiday tree, look carefully at your holiday lights and other electrical decorations to ensure there are no frayed, cracked, or damaged cords. If you see any exposed wiring or melted plastic, throw the decoration away. You also need to throw away lights if there are any exposed sockets.
- Switch to LED. LED lights are much cooler than electric lights, which means they're safer to use on a Christmas tree.
- Don't Use Nails. If you're hanging outdoor holiday lights, don't use metal nails or screws. They can puncture the exterior coating of the lights and potentially cause a shock. Instead, use plastic outdoor hanging

Continued on next page.

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Asst. Chief

Dave Burke

Turton Fire Department

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PEMF PULSE ADVANTAGE at Wild Roots Redfield, SD Katie Hansen 605-310-3326

Avoid Candles

However, the Insurance Information Institute reports that candles cause 11% of home fires in December and 10% of fires in November and January.

According to a 2017 survey conducted by Shriners your responsibility. Hospital, 25% of people leave burning candles unattended in their homes, and 27% leave burning candles within reach of children.

of 12 inches or more from anything that can burn and never use them to light or decorate a Christmas tree. Tealights placed on top of toilet tanks for holiday parties are particularly dangerous. People sit down, and their hair or clothing can catch fire. Never put burning candles to reduce smoke inhalation. in the bathroom.

If you love the warm glow candles give your home, use battery-operated flameless candles, which are much safer.

What to Do During a Fire

It's your worst nightmare: Your home is on fire, and you must safely get your family out. What do you need to do to survive?

- Many people like to use candles to add warmth and figure out the safest way to escape. If fire or smoke is ambiance to their home during the winter holidays. blocking your primary escape plan route, make your way out using your secondary exit plan. Don't forget about door and doorknob checking, the risk of backdraft, closing doors behind you, and getting others out if it's
 - Call 911. Your priority is to get everyone out of the home safely. As soon as you're out, call 911.
- Cover Vents. If you can't get out, keep the door To reduce the risk of fire, keep candles a safe distance closed and cover vents and door cracks with a cloth or blanket. Call 911 and tell the operator where you are. Signal for help outside a window using a cloth or sheet.
 - Protect Your Lungs. Cover your mouth and nose with a towel or bandana and do the same for your children
 - Stay Out. Once everyone is safely out of the house, stay out. Don't go back inside for valuables. They're not worth your life.

Another way to keep your family safe is to keep fire blankets next to each person's bed. Use fire blankets as a shield from the hot flames and scorching air so everyone can get out of the house without getting burned.

Final Word

Remember Your Escape Plan. Stay low and A house fire is everyone's worst nightmare. However, with planning, preparedness, and practice, a house fire doesn't have to be a tragedy. You can replace your home and valuables — but not your family. Simple steps like preparing an evacuation plan and practicing with your kids go a long way to ensuring they know what to do and how to get out if a fire occurs.

Do you have any tips for preparing for a house fire or getting out safely?



Brentford Fire Department



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Assistant Chief Michael Smith

Secretary/Treasurer Nate Stuck

Andrew Overby Bill Mitchell **Brad Henjum** Bryce Ruesink Colin Williams Jarrod Rahm Jim Smith Kyle Henjum Darren Jilek

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Larry Hoekman







Tulare - **596-4280**



Types of Fires/ from pg. 5

involving cooking oils to be in their own category, too long on a stove. If possible, you'll want to turn off typically referred to as Class K or Class F in the UK. Because of the high flash point of cooking oils and fats, from the heat source as soon as possible.

Class K fires often start when a pan is left unattended for

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the heat on your cooking appliance and remove the fire

Just as you shouldn't use water to try and extinguish a Class B fire, dousing a cooking oil fire with liquid is likely to create a dangerous splatter effect and spread the flames.

Instead, you should extinguish a Class K fire with a wet chemical extinguisher, according to the New York City Fire Department. These are mandatory in many



commercial kitchens and are a good investment if you do any amount of cooking at home.

Here's what to do if you can't extinguish a fire.

If you have any doubt at all about your ability to quickly and safely extinguish a fire, you should immediately evacuate. According to the Department of Homeland Security, it can take just 30 seconds for a small flame to turn into a major blaze.

In the event of a fire, the Red Cross recommended leaving the area or building as quickly as possible after yelling to alert anyone nearby. Always use stairs rather than elevators, stay low to the ground, and use the back of your hand to feel if closed doors are warm to the touch, as you should never open doors that do not feel cool. Call 911 or your local emergency number as soon as it is safe to do so.

If your clothes catch on fire, the Red Cross suggests you drop to the ground and cover your face before rolling back and forth until the flames go out.

Doland Fire Department



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