

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2020**  
**OCTOBER 4 -10**



# Saluting our Firefighters

**“Fire destruction is one man’s job,  
fire prevention is everybody’s job.”**

## Proclamation on Fire Prevention Week, 2020

During Fire Prevention Week, we are reminded to keep doing our part to prevent fires before they tragically claim lives and destroy homes, businesses, and natural resources. Every American can play a role in raising awareness about preventing fires and taking simple precautions to help prevent fire-related deaths and injuries. We also commend our Nation’s brave firefighters and emergency workers who risk their health and safety each day, and we solemnly remember those who gave their lives in service

to protect Americans and our communities. This week, I encourage all Americans to take steps to prepare their family, property, and community on what to do before, during, and after a fire.

This year, courageous firefighters and other brave Americans have confronted one of the worst fire seasons in our history. We have seen more than 43,500 wildfires, lost more than 10,000 buildings, and 35 people have tragically died. In the Western States, more than 30,000 firefighters — the largest deployment in history — have battled these fires, risking their lives for their fellow Americans’ safety. My Administration is thankful for the assistance from our National Guard, Navy, Marine Corps, and international partners from Canada and Mexico

to help end this devastation.

This tragic fire season is another reminder of the importance of effective forest management, which can play a big role in helping prevent forest fires. Proactive steps such as cleaning forest floors to remove flammable limbs and leaves can help reduce the risk of large fires and improve the health of our Nation’s forests. In 2020, I have approved more than 30 Stafford Act Declarations, including Fire Management Assistance Grants, to help multiple States stop fires, and we continue to encourage active forest management efforts throughout the country.

This year, we also give special recognition to the many American firefighters who joined the valiant efforts of our Australian allies in fighting bushfires that killed hundreds

of people and countless animals and destroyed thousands of homes. Tragically, three Americans perished in this courageous effort. These heroes, all veterans of the United States Armed Forces, embodied the very best of the American spirit in their desire to help others, and we will always honor their memory.

Home fires are also a cause for significant concern. Cooking fires are one of the most common types of residential fires, and fires in the home can start easily if the right precautions are not taken. I recommend that Americans take active steps to protect themselves and their families at home, including by testing smoke alarms once a month and replacing them after 10 years, as recommended by the United States Fire Administration.

*PROCLAMATION/pg.3*



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*Employed by SDDC*

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# Saluting our Firefighters

## PROCLAMATION/ from pg.2

Additionally, it is important to have a fire escape route in place so all are prepared for how to leave the home if a fire does occur. We can all do our part to prevent fires in and around our homes to protect the lives of our families and neighbors. Throughout this Fire Prevention Week, we come together to recognize the threat posed by fire, honor the lives it claims each year, and recommit to

preventing fires in our homes, businesses, and across this great Nation's wildlands. I encourage all Americans to reduce fire deaths, injuries, and property loss through prudent preparation. NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do

hereby proclaim October 4 through October 10, 2020, as Fire Prevention Week. On Sunday, October 4, 2020, in accordance with Public Law 107-51, the flag of the United States will be flown at half-staff at all Federal office buildings in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. I call on all Americans to participate in this observance with appropriate programs and

activities and by renewing their efforts to prevent fires and their tragic consequences. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

**DONALD J. TRUMP**

**“Let’s blaze the way, to keep the blaze away.”**



THANKS  
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*Joined the Department in 2019  
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## Kitchen safety theme of Fire Prevention Week

PIERRE – South Dakota’s Fire Marshal says while the kitchen can be one of the favorite rooms in the house, it can also be a deadly one. Fire Prevention Week is October 4-10. This year’s theme is “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!”

“Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries while unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen,” said State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman. “People need to be careful and attentive when using any type

of heating source in the kitchen.” Fire Prevention Week is observed by fire departments nationwide. Merriman says firefighters use the week to remind the public, **KITCHEN SAFETY/ pg.4**



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## Hitchcock Fire Department

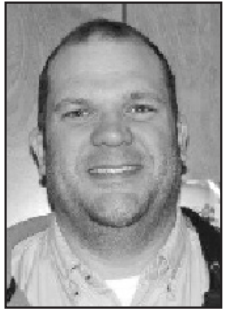
Chief Philip Oechsle

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# Saluting our Firefighters

**“Fires are rare when care is there!”**



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*Joined the  
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*Employed by  
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Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

What you should know about home cooking safety

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food,

## COOKING SAFETY

check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

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

If you have a cooking fire

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- Keep a lid nearby when

you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

•For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Safety considerations for cooking with oil

- Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.
- Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells, immediately turn off the burner and/or carefully remove the pan from the burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.
- Heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need

for frying or sautéing.

•Add food gently to the pot or pan so the oil does not splatter.

•Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If you have a fire, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time. Never throw water on the fire.

•If the fire does not go out or you don't feel comfortable sliding a lid over the pan, get everyone out of your home. Call the fire department from outside.

Cooking fire facts  
Based on 2013-2017  
annual averages:  
*COOKING SAFETY/pg.5*

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## KITCHEN SAFETY/ from pg.3

especially children, about making sure how to get safely out of homes during a fire and the importance of having working smoke alarms on all floors of the home.

For more on this year's theme, click onto [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).



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*Employed by  
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## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Every year, around 50,000 home fires start because of malfunctioning electrical equipment.

Use the below checklist to check whether or not your electrical equipment is safe.

**Outlets and Light Switches:**

- Are your light switches and outlets working properly?
- Are switches/outlets warm to the touch?
- Are switches/outlets discolored?
- Are switches/outlets making sounds, such as buzzing or crackling?
- Do plugs fit snugly into all outlets?
- Do you have enough switches and outlets?
- Is your furniture arranged in such a way where you don't have to rely on extension cords?
- Is there an unusual smell around

your outlets or switches? If you detect an odd smell such as burning plastic, fish, or a dead animal, you might have a problem with a burning outlet or electrical wire somewhere. This is very dangerous! Turn off power at the breaker box and call an expert electrician immediately.

**Extension Cords:**

- Have you used any extension cords for more than 30 days? Remember that extension cords should only be used as a temporary measure, and never for your space heaters or air conditioners.
- Are your extension cords are rated properly for indoor or outdoor use?
- Do your extension cords display wires, cracks, frays, or other damage?
- Are your extension cords rated by

an independent testing laboratory, such as UL, CSA, or ETL?

- Do you have any cords that are running through walls, ceilings, windows, doors, or any other place where they can be pinched or tripped over?
- Are any extension cords stapled or nailed to the wall or ceiling?
- Do plugs fit snugly? Is any area of the prong exposed?
- Does your extension cord feel hot to the touch?
- Is the extension cords rated to meet or exceed the power demands of the electrical device or appliance being used?

*For more electrical safety information, including information on surge protectors, tamper resistant receptacles, and smoke/CO detectors, read the safety guides.*

**“Fire defense is a self defense.”**



Rural Fire Dept.

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Employed by  
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## COOKING SAFETY/ from pg.4

•Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home\* fires and fire injuries, causing 49% of home fires that resulted in 21% of the home fire deaths and 45% of the injuries.

•Two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.

•Clothing is the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but clothing ignitions lead to 14% of the home cooking equipment fire deaths.

•Ranges or cooktops account for almost two-thirds (62%) of home cooking fire incidents.

•Unattended equipment is a factor in one-third

(31%) of reported home cooking fires and half (48%) of the associated deaths.

- Frying dominates the cooking fire problem.
- Thanksgiving is the peak

day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Source: www.nfpa.org



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# Saluting our Firefighters



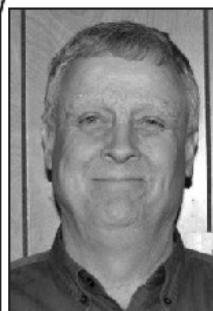
THANKS  
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 Capt.



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# Saluting our Firefighters



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THANKS  
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**Treasurer**  
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George Dooley  
Todd Bowers  
Tom Tomsha  
Nick Ihnen  
David Hartford  
Jake Miller  
Korey Stoner

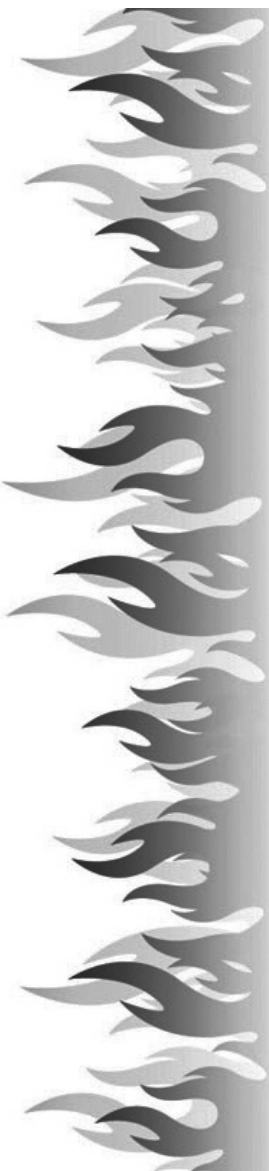
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Casey Stoner  
Randy Haigh  
Jay Varner  
Tom Salmon  
Shawn Doren

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# Saluting our Firefighters

## Preventing combine fires

Combines are at high risk of fire. Work crews should take extra precautions to prevent fires from starting.

**1. Park a hot combine away from out-buildings.** Keeping a combine out of barns, shed, and away from other flammables is a common prevention strategy in case a hot spot ignites. Insurance claims can double when equipment fires are responsible for loss of farm structures.

**2. Regular maintenance is priority.** Check the machine daily for any overheated bearings or damage in the exhaust system. Keep the fittings greased. Maintain proper coolant and oil levels. Repair fuel or oil hoses, including fittings and metal lines, if they appear to leak.

**3. Keep dried plant material from accumulating on the equipment** Frequently blow dry chaff, leaves and other

crop materials that have accumulated on the equipment with a portable leaf blower or air compressor. Be sure to inspect the engine compartment and other areas where chaff accumulates around bearings, belts and other moving parts.

**4. Maintain the electrical system.** Pay attention to machine components that draw a heavy electrical load, such as starter motors and heating/



STOCK PHOTO

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**Asst. Chief**  
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Cheryl DeBarge  
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Brian Sanderson  
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cooling systems. Monitor circuits for any overloading, especially if fuses blow regularly. Keep wiring in good condition and replace frayed wiring or worn out connectors.

**5. Refuel a cool engine whenever possible.** Never refuel a combine with the engine running. It is recommended to turn off the engine and wait 15 minutes; this helps to reduce the risk of a spill volatilizing and igniting.

**6. Prevent static electricity while operating in a dry field.** Use a ground chain attached to the combine frame to prevent static charges from igniting dry chaff and harvest residue, letting the chain drag on the ground while in the field.

**7. Have 2 fully charged fire extinguishers on the combine.** The mrfireex-

tinguisher.com company provides special mrfire-extinguisher on farm machinery is recommended. In a combine, keep a 10-pound unit in the cab and a 20-pound unit mounted at ground level.

**8. Have 1 fully charged fire extinguisher in the tractor, grain cart, and pickup truck.** ABC fire extinguishers are recommended on farm machinery. These extinguishers are good for fires at incipient phases – meaning at the first sign of smoke or a small flame. When a fire appears, it is important to put worker protection before saving equipment.

**9. Have an emergency plan in place and be sure all employees know the plan.** Combine fires happen fast – be sure all employees know what

to do if smoke or fire appears.

**10. Turn off the engine.** If in the combine cab, turn off the engine and exit the machine.

**11. Call 911 before using the fire extinguishers.** If the fire is in the cab, only use the 10-pound fire extinguisher from the outside of the cab – on the exterior platform. If the fire is on the ground, use caution when opening the engine compartment or other hatches as small fires can flare with extra air. Stay a safe distance away from the fire.

**12. Use a shovel on small field debris fires.** Throwing dirt over burning field residue can stop a fire from spreading. However, stay back if the fire takes off.

**Source:** <https://agfax.com>



# Saluting our Firefighters

## HEATING (HVAC) SYSTEM SAFETY

To help you avoid a home fire in the first place, it's important to consider that heating equipment is the leading cause of home fire death.

So while you snuggle up for the winter, keep in mind the following statistics from the NFPA report, "Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment":

•Space heaters are the type of heating equipment most often involved in home heating fires, figuring in two of every five of

these fires and accounting for 84% of associated civilian deaths, 75% of civilian injuries, and 52% of direct property damage.

•The leading factor contributing to ignition for home heating fire deaths (56%) was heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding.

•The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (30%) was failure

to clean, principally from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys.

Heating (Furnace, Fireplace & Space Heater) Safety Tips

Around half of all heating-related fires occur during the months of December, January, and February. As the temperatures drop, the risk of a home fire increases.

Luckily, there are some simple safety tips to prevent a heating fire from happening in the

first place:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local

codes and manufacturer's instructions.

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying

into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Have your heating system inspected every year by a professional HVAC technician. Sign up for a home maintenance plan to save money and automate your yearly tune-up appointments.



**Kids**

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Joe Hurst  
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Keith Lambert  
Kory Lambert  
Mike Lambert  
Riley Nichols  
Riley Curtis  
Brandon Wipf  
Cole O'Daniel

Scott DeYoung  
Darron DeYoung  
Donovan Whitley  
Andrew Swanson  
Anthony Swanson  
Dane Lambert  
Brad Englund

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Scott Haskell  
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# Saluting our Firefighters

## THANKSGIVING SAFETY

### Top 10 safety tips

Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food. Stay in the home when cooking your turkey, and check on it frequently. Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.

Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns. Keep knives out of the reach of children. Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not

dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child. Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet. Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle. Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids,

toys, pocketbooks or bags. Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

### Thanksgiving fire facts

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, Christmas

Eve, and the day before Thanksgiving. In 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,600 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires. Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.

Cooking equipment was involved in almost half of all reported home fires and home fire injuries, and it is the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

*“Man is the only creature that dares to light a fire and live with it. The reason? Because he alone has learned to put it out.”*

*~Henry Jackson Vandyke, Jr.*

## Ashton Fire Department



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## Winter fire dangers

### Winter storms

Most of the U.S. is at risk for winter storms, which can cause dangerous and sometimes life-threatening conditions. Blinding wind-driven snow, extreme cold, icy road conditions, downed trees and power lines can all wreak havoc on our daily schedules. Home fires occur more in the winter than in any other season, and heating equipment is involved in one of every six reported home fires, and one in every five home fire deaths.

### Generators

Portable generators are useful during power outages, however, many homeowners are unaware

that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire hazards. According to a 2013 Consumer Product Safety Commission report, half of the generator-related deaths happened in the four coldest months of the year, November through February, and portable generators were involved in the majority of carbon monoxide deaths involving engine-driven tools.

### Candles

December is the peak time of year for home

candle fires; the top two days for home candle fires are Christmas and Christmas Eve. Each year between 2013-2017, an average of 7,900 home candle fires were reported each year.

### Electrical

Electrical home fires are a leading cause of home fires in the U.S. Roughly half of all home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment, while nearly another half involved other known types of equipment like washer or dryer fans, and portable or stationary space heaters. More statistics on electrical fires.



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# Saluting our Firefighters

## Christmas fire safety checklist:

### Holiday decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations.
  - Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
  - Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
  - 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 light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
  - Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

### Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about 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 stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

## Child safety tips

- Install working smoke and CO alarms.
- Smoke alarms should be on every level of the home, outside each sleeping area, and inside every bedroom.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms should be on every level of the home outside sleeping areas.
- Keep fire extinguishers within easy reach.
- Avoid deadly tip overs. Anchor TV's and furniture to the walls.
- Make sure cribs meet required federal safety standards.
- Keep cleaning supplies in a locked cabinet or out of reach of children.
- Go cordless or eliminate any dangling cords on window coverings.
- Protect children from a deadly gap between the interior and exterior doors of home elevators.

## Home safety for people with disabilities

### Home Fire Sprinklers

Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small.

Sprinklers allow people more time to escape in a fire. When choosing an apartment or home, look for one that has home fire sprinklers.

### Smoke Alarms

• Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

• Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button. If you can't reach the alarm, ask

for help.

• For added safety, interconnect the smoke alarms.

If one sounds, they all sound. This gives more time to escape.

• Smoke alarms with sealed (long-life) batteries work for up to 10 years. They can be helpful for people who find it hard to change batteries.

• Smoke alarms expire. Replace them every 10 years.

### People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

• Smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard

or hearing.

• Strobe lights flash when the smoke alarm sounds. The lights warn people of a possible fire.

• When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape.

• When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device can wake them. A pillow or bed shaker may be helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.

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# Saluting our Firefighters

## *What are the primary threats to homes during a wildfire?*

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects.

There are methods for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200' from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).

### **Immediate zone**

The home and the area 0-5'

from the furthest attached exterior point of the home; defined as a non-combustible area. Science tells us this is the most important zone to take immediate action on as it is the most vulnerable to embers. **START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF** then move into the landscaping section of the Immediate Zone.

Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.

Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.

Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.

Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.

Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows Screen or

box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.

Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

### **Intermediate zone**

5-30' from the furthest exterior point of the home. Landscaping/hardscaping- employing careful landscaping or creating breaks that can help influence and decrease fire behavior

Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.

Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.

Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.

Remove ladder fuels (vegeta-

tion under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.

Space trees to have a minimum of eighteen feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.

Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.

Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

### **Extended zone**

30-100 feet, out to 200 feet. Landscaping – the goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.

Remove dead plant and tree material.

Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.

Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.

Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.\*

Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.\*

\*The distances listed for crown spacing are suggested based on NFPA 1144. However, the crown spacing needed to reduce/prevent crown fire potential could be significantly greater due to slope, the species of trees involved and other site specific conditions. Check with your local forestry professional to get advice on what is appropriate for your property.

“Don't delay, get out of fire's way.”



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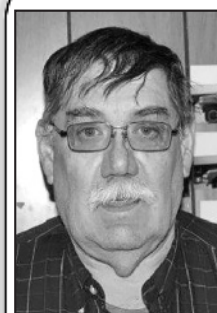
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# Saluting our Firefighters

## Safety tips for older adults

### BARN SAFETY CHECKLIST:

- Heat lamps and space heaters are kept a safe distance from anything that can burn.
- Heaters are on a sturdy surface and cannot fall over.
- Electrical equipment is labeled for agricultural or commercial use.
- All wiring is free from damage.
- Extension cords are not used in the barn.
- Lightbulbs have covers to protect them from dust, moisture, and breakage.
- Damage is identified quickly and repairs are completed with safety in mind.
- Dust and cobwebs around electrical outlets and lights are removed.
- Oily rags are stored in a closed, metal container away from heat.
- Feed, hay, straw, and flammable liquids are stored away from the main barn.
- The barn is a smoke-free zone.
- Exits are clearly marked and pathways are clear.
- Fire drills are held frequently with everyone who uses the barn.
- Workers are trained to use fire extinguishers.
- Everyone in the barn knows personal safety is the first priority if a fire breaks out.
- Hazard checks take place on a set schedule.

To increase fire safety for older adults, 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, and 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. View a list of product manufacturers.

#### 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.

## Common fire problems in rural areas

Heating is a common cause of residential structure fires and deaths.

Fixed heaters, including wood stoves, are involved in most rural residential heating fires. Damaged electrical equipment is often the source of fire in barns and other farm buildings.

Many homes do not have working smoke alarms increasing risk of death in a fire.



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# Saluting our Firefighters

## Safety tips for the proper use of fire extinguishers

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you,

and release the locking mechanism.

Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit

when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

Portable Fire Extinguishers and Children

NFPA believes that children should not be trained how to operate portable fire extinguishers.

Teaching children to use portable fire extinguishers runs counter to NFPA messaging to get out and stay out if there is a fire. Furthermore, children may not have the maturity to operate a portable fire extinguisher properly or decide whether or not a fire is small enough to be put out by the extinguisher. They may not have

the physical ability to handle the extinguisher or dexterity to perform the complex actions required to put out a fire. In the process of extinguishing flames, children may not know how to respond if the fire spreads. NFPA continues to believe that only adults who know how to operate portable fire extinguishers should use them.

## The importance of Carbon Monoxide alarms in the home

Although the popularity of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms has been growing in recent years, it cannot be assumed that everyone is familiar with the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home.

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an 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 are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can

also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

The dangers of CO exposure depend on a number of variables, including the victim's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body's ability

to use oxygen (i.e. emphysema, asthma, heart disease) can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be.

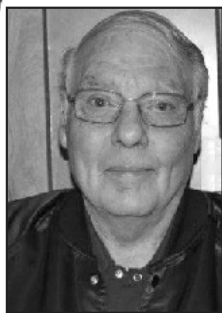
A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over

a shorter amount of time.

In 2016, local fire departments responded to an estimated 79,600 carbon monoxide incidents, or an average of nine such calls per hour. This does not include the 91,400 carbon monoxide alarm malfunctions and the 68,000 unintentional carbon

monoxide alarms.

Data from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for Health Statistics shows that in 2017, 399 people died of unintentional non-fire carbon monoxide poisoning.



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# Saluting our Firefighters

## CO alarm safety tips and CO poisoning symptoms

CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.

Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.

Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.

If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.

During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents

for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.

A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.

Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

### Symptoms of CO poisoning

CO enters the body through breathing. CO poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning and other illnesses. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, dizziness, light headedness or headaches. High levels of CO can be fatal, causing death within minutes.

The concentration of CO, measured in parts per million (ppm) is a

determining factor in the symptoms for an average, healthy adult.

50 ppm: No adverse effects with 8 hours of exposure.

200 ppm: Mild headache after 2-3 hours of exposure.

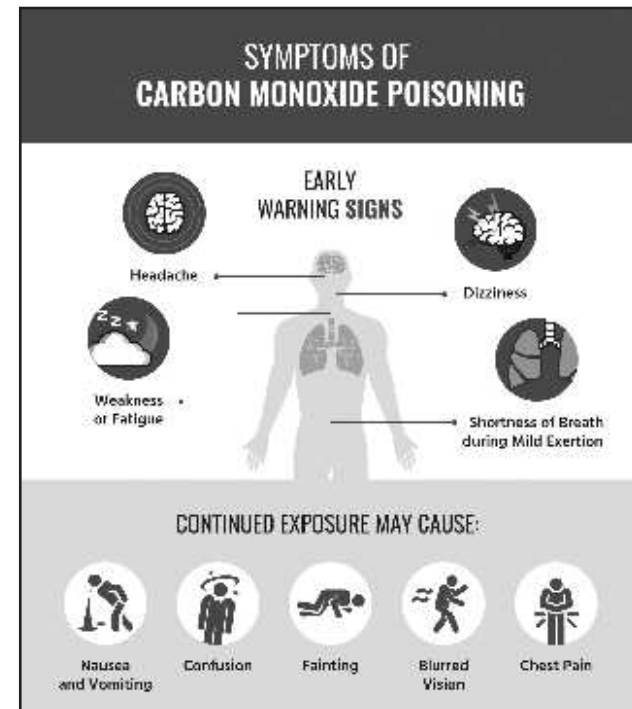
400 ppm: Headache and nausea after 1-2 hours of exposure.

800 ppm: Headache, nausea, and dizziness after 45 minutes; collapse and unconsciousness after 1 hour of exposure.

1,000 ppm: Loss of consciousness after 1 hour of exposure.

1,600 ppm: Headache, nausea, and dizziness after 20 minutes of exposure.

3,200 ppm: Headache, nausea, and dizziness after 5-10 minutes; collapse and unconsciousness after 30 minutes of exposure.



6,400 ppm: Headache and dizziness after 1-2 minutes; unconsciousness and danger of death after 10-15 minutes of exposure.

12,800 ppm: Immediate

physiological effects, unconsciousness and danger of death after 1-3 minutes of exposure.



### THANKS CORY JESSEN

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# Saluting our Firefighters

## Top five Halloween fire safety tips

Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in jack-o-lanterns

When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric

Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.

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

Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.

Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms are working.

## Halloween fire facts

From 2013-2017, an average of 780 home structure fires began with decorations per year.

More than two of every five (44%) of these fires occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source, such as a candle or hot equipment.

More than one-third (37%) of these fires were started by candles.

One-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen; 16% began in the living room.



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