

OCTOBER 2022 CCDC SAFETY MESSAGE

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

October is Fire Prevention Month! The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and the week of October 9th - 15th) is to raise fire safety awareness and help ensure your home and family are protected. The following information is courtesy of the National Fire Protection Agency and First Alert.

In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

The NFPA's 2022 campaign for Fire Safety Month is "Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape." Help protect and keep your home safe by installing smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, testing detectors, as well as having fire extinguishers at home and how to use them. Have escape routes planned and practice using them.

5 Tips for Whole Home Safety

1. Install Smoke & CO Alarms in your home

Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms should be installed on every level and in every bedroom for whole home protection. Combination smoke and CO alarm systems provide 2-in-1 protection against smoke and carbon monoxide saving space on your wall and installation time.

2. Be Prepared with Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers can help stop a small fire from growing larger and causing more damage to your house. Be sure to have a fire extinguisher or EZ Fire Extinguishing Spray on every level of your home, as well as in the kitchen and garage. It is also important you know how to use a fire extinguisher before ever having to use one. A helpful acronym is **P.A.S.S.** – pull the pin, aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, squeeze the trigger and sweep from side to side.

3. Plan & Practice Your Emergency Safety Route with Your Family

In the event of a home emergency, plan and practice a home escape plan twice per year. Your safety plan should include two exits out of every bedroom and a designated meeting spot a safe distance from your house like the mailbox or neighbor's house.

4. Test & Maintain Your Alarm Systems

Test the smoke and CO alarms in your house monthly to ensure they are working properly. If you have a battery powered alarm, change the batteries every six months to make sure your family is safe. Basic maintenance of your alarms includes cleaning them at least once a month. Check the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning. If the smoke or CO alarm in your house becomes contaminated by excessive dirt, dust, or grime, and cannot be cleaned, you should replace the alarm with a new one immediately.

5. Replace Your Alarms After 10 Years

Smoke and CO alarm systems do not last forever and should be replaced at least 10 years from the manufacture date.

Garage Safety Tips

Help prevent garage fires in your home by following these important fire safety tips:

- Store combustible liquids like oils, gasoline, paints, propane, and varnishes in the approved, appropriate containers, preferably in a shed away from the home
- Do not overload circuits
- Avoid clutter or debris in your garage, as it can be flammable and fuel fires
- Use electrical tools with caution
- Do not use grills or generators in the garage

THINK SMART, BE AWARE, BE FLEXIBLE, BE EDUCATED (SAFE)