

# TENNESSEE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



## MONTHLY FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION PLANNING GUIDE 2020-2021

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is committed to protecting the safety of Tennesseans and their property through fire prevention, education, codes enforcement, and regulatory investigation.

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

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of the SFMO is all-inclusive in nature and focuses on the continued reduction of the loss of life and property by fire. With this critical mission in mind, the SFMO commits to spotlight prevention methods such as more stringent code standards, consistent safety inspections, and widespread educational messaging. Each section incorporates one or more of the core values to reach our goals which aligns our focused mission and provides a united vision for the future.

## **Tennessee Fire Prevention Facts**

1. In 2019, Tennessee had a fire dollar loss of nearly \$295 million. Tennessee fire departments responded to 25,089 fires, which included 8,780 structure fires. Two hundred thirty (230) firefighters were injured, and 1 firefighter died in 2019. One hundred eighty-nine (189) unintentional civilian structure fire injuries and ninety-three (93) unintentional civilian structure fire deaths were reported. 23% of structure fire reports lacked sufficient information to determine cause. 36% of fatalities resulted from fires of unknown origin.
2. Close to 96% of fire deaths in 2019 were in residential occupancies, including one- and two-family homes, apartments, and manufactured homes.
3. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are the most inexpensive and effective means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire and could reduce the risk of dying from a fire in a home by almost half.
4. The state's fire incident reports for 2019 indicated that smoke alarms were present in only 42% of fatal fire cases. Increasing the presence of smoke alarms in Tennessee households will likely result in more lives being saved from fire danger. However, there are also documented cases where working smoke alarms did not alert occupants, or occupants were affected by smoke and gases before smoke alarms activated.
5. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the combination of working smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers lowers the risk of death from fire by more than 80%.
6. Following the national trend, the state's residential fire victims tend to be very young and very old. Members of these two groups die in fatal fires in proportions that exceed their share of the

population. The national fire death rate for people 85 and older is 5 times greater than the rest of the population.

In Tennessee during 2019:

- a fire department responded to an alarm every 53 seconds.
- a fire department responded to a fire every 21 minutes.
- 1 structure fire was reported every 60 minutes.
- 1 accidental fire death occurred every 4 days.

## BACKGROUND

In 1915, the Fire Prevention Division, also known as the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO), was established by the Tennessee General Assembly under the Department of Labor. The Division was tasked to prevent and investigate fires. In 1937, the Division was transferred to the Department of Insurance and Banking. The mission of the Fire Prevention Division has been widely expanded and is now under the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

The 7 sections within the SFMO are:

- Administrative Services
- Codes Enforcement
- Education & Outreach
- Electrical, Residential & Marina Inspections
- Manufactured Housing and Modular Buildings
- Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy
- Tennessee Firefighting Commission

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

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

In recent years, Tennessee has seen a 23% reduction in its fire mortality rate (from 17.5 to 13.5). In addition, Tennessee recently dropped out of the top 10 in the NFPA's ranking of U.S. states with high fire mortality rates. The SFMO has made significant progress in reducing fire loss in Tennessee, but any loss of life is too great, and there is always more work to be done.

## **GOALS: Focused Fire Prevention**

The goal for the 2020-2021 is to focus resources where they matter most. This method of focused fire prevention will specifically target high-risk areas of the state with crucial fire prevention messages. While working with the local fire departments, the goal is to accomplish the following in each of the targeted areas:

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

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

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

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

### **Understanding the Impact of Fire and Life Safety Messages on Children**

From the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

#### Overall conclusion and recommendations for safety programming:

For both younger and older children, watching positively framed videos was more effective than watching negatively framed videos. Parents also rated positively framed videos as more effective. Thus, safety messages should focus on depicting the positive outcomes that result from engaging in safety behaviors.

Communicating safety messages by depicting the negative consequences of unsafe behaviors were not as effective as communicating the positive outcomes of safe behavior.

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

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

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

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

### **Fire and Life Safety Messages for Older Adults**

From the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

#### Overall conclusion and recommendations for safety programming:

Older adults, just like younger children, respond to positively framed messages rather than negatively framed ones. When communicating safety messages that depict a positive message, behavior change is more likely to occur.

The easiest and most effective way to reach older adults is in a group setting such as a house of worship or religious organization, nursing home, or community center.

NFPA's "Remembering When" program uses nostalgia-based trivia, games and presentations to teach 16 key safety messages. Use of prop boxes and other hand-on activities helps older adults learn and retain the information being presented to them.

# OCTOBER 2020

## EVENTS:

- National Fire Prevention Week™ /Month
- SFMO Fire Prevention Week™ Kick-off Event
- SFMO Poster Contest
- Firehouse Expo-tentative
- Halloween
- National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend

## MONTHLY THEME: "Elements of a Fire-Safe Home"

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

## CUSTOMIZABLE SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES



From [NFPA's website](http://www.nfpa.org): This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!™" works to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe in the kitchen. **Did you know?** Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.

## October 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!™

Week 2 – Home Fire Escape Planning

Week 3 – Home Fire Sprinklers

Week 4 – Halloween Safety

### **State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) Annual Poster Contest**

State officials and local fire departments across Tennessee will be promoting participation in the fire prevention poster contest. Local community school children will be creating posters based on the national fire prevention theme of the year. This year, they will be turned into the state for online judging in December. Four state winners for each grade group (K-3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) will be chosen. All winners and their families will be invited to attend the state awards banquet held in 2021.

### **State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) Fire Prevention Week™ Kick-off**

Fire departments and safety organizations from around the state will take to social media to kick off National Fire Prevention Month. Safety messages, activities, and contests through Facebook will be held throughout the week. Fire departments are encouraged to promote Fire Prevention Week in a way that will best fit their community's needs and abilities.

### **National Fire Service History**

- October 19, 1857 – Chicago Building Collapse (10 firefighter deaths)
- October 8-9, 1871 – Great Chicago Fire (300 deaths)
- October 8, 1871 – Great Peshtigo Fire (1,152 deaths)
- October 28, 1954 – PA Chemical Tank Explosion (12 firefighter deaths)
- October 26, 1962 – New York Building Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- October 17, 1966 – New York Mercantile Building Fire (12 firefighter deaths)

### **Tennessee Specific History**

- October 22, 1930 – Tennessee Fireman's Association formed
- October 2019 – Fire Investigation Services (FIS) transferred from the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- October 31, 2019 – Barry Brady passes away from cancer, leading to the creation of the Barry Brady Act

## **OCTOBER: WEEK 1— Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!**™

### **Overview:**

#### **Why cooking safety matters:**

- Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.
- Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries. Hot liquids like coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries.

#### **Resources:** The following resources are available:

- [Tools from NFPA for Fire Prevention Week™](#)
- Fire Prevention Week™ kick-off talking points
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/-/media/77E09FAC373543D1BC1F4AB64F433C48.ashx>



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

- **Customizable press release**
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/-/media/5F8E82EB5BCA4221924BF37602CFB7FD.ashx>
- **Logos**
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/FPW/Logo/2020/FPW20EnglishJPGs.ashx>
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/FPW/Logo/2020/FPW20SpanishJPGs.ashx>
- **Twitter**
  - It's #FirePreventionWeek! Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen! <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Keep an eye on what you fry! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires. #FirePreventionWeek <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Keep kids safe! Have a 3-foot child-free zone around hot food and drink. #FirePreventionWeek <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Careful in the kitchen! Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the US. #FirePreventionWeek <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
- **Facebook**
  - "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" That's the theme for #FirePreventionWeek, October 4-10, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave, even for a second, turn the stove off. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Keep an eye on what you fry! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires in Tennessee and the US. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove. Remember: cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home injuries. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>

**Educator Tip:** Giveaways are very popular during Fire Prevention Week™. Whether you are hosting an event at your fire station or visiting a school as part of a fire prevention outreach event, you should always have something free to give out to kids, parents, and teachers. NFPA has a number of FPW branded giveaways that can be purchased on their website (link: <https://catalog.nfpa.org/Fire-Prevention-Week-and-Fire-Safety-Education-Materials-C8.aspx?icid=D914>) or you can give out items that are branded with your fire department's emblem. Popular giveaway items include:

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Cooking*

##### *Stay Alert*

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

##### *Watch What You Heat!*

**8.2.1** The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

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

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

##### *What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire*

**8.4.1.1** Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

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

## **OCTOBER: WEEK 2— Home Fire Escape Planning**

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



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Escape planning grid (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- Fire escape planning (USFA)
  - <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/escape.html>
- Basic fire escape planning (NFPA)
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning>
- “Home Fire Escape Plan” template from Red Cross
  - [https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m38640160\\_Home\\_Fire\\_Escape\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m38640160_Home_Fire_Escape_Plan.pdf)
- Home fire escape plans (YouTube video from Spokane Fire)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H6y40hnrc4>
- Fire safety – have two ways out
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9KSFRq4rXA>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Look for places in your home where a fire can start. Here are leading causes of home fires: <https://bit.ly/3iXiEpW>
  - Do you know what your smoke alarm sounds like? Know what to do if you hear it! <https://bit.ly/3gVimOG>
  - Look for two exits from every room in your home - usually a door and a window. <https://bit.ly/38QEQxk>
  - Download the @NFPA home escape planning tip sheet & keep your family safe! <https://bit.ly/38QEQxk>
- **Facebook**
  - Look for places home fires can start and minimize those risks: Keep cooking areas clear of clutter, keep anything that can burn well away from heat sources, and make sure electrical outlets aren't overloaded. <https://bit.ly/3iXiEpW>
  - Do you know what your smoke alarm sounds like? If you hear it, take it seriously – whether you're at home or any other location! <https://bit.ly/3gVimOG>
  - Make sure you have adequate smoke alarm protection! You should have at least 1 smoke alarm on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and near all sleeping areas.
  - Test smoke alarms once a month to make sure they're working! For more info, and to request a free smoke alarm, go to [www.tn.gov/fire](http://www.tn.gov/fire).

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Fire Escape*

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

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

*If There Is a Fire*

**4.3.1** When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place. Call 911.

## **OCTOBER: WEEK 3—Home Fire Sprinklers**

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



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- “NFPA Safety Tips – Home Fire Sprinklers” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g73IQBFf0vE>
- National Fire Sprinkler Association website
  - <https://nfsa.org/>
- Burn demonstration videos from Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0vJfxO-2yc>
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-sprinkler-demonstration-video/>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative website
  - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative newsletter
  - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools/newsletter.aspx>
- “Sprinkler Saves” website
  - <http://sprinklersaves.com/>
- Home fire sprinklers “In the News” via NFPA Xchange
  - <https://community.nfpa.org/community/home-fire-sprinkler-initiative>
- Home fire sprinkler fact sheet from HFSC
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/HomeFireSprinklerFacts.pdf>
- Fire sprinkler display banners
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-department-banners/>
- “Fast Facts About Home Fire Sprinklers”
  - [http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/~/\\_media/fire%20sprinkler%20initiative/files/advocacy%20tools/fact%20sheets/sprinklers%20fast%20facts.pdf?la=en](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/~/_media/fire%20sprinkler%20initiative/files/advocacy%20tools/fact%20sheets/sprinklers%20fast%20facts.pdf?la=en)
- “Fire Sprinklers Protect Your Pets”
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzSSBIL3C4A>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Fire departments are quick, but not that quick. Add sprinklers to the list for your current or new home! #fastestwater @NFPA\_FSI @HSFCorg
  - #FireSprinklers are designed to contain/extinguish a fire in its early stages and reduce fire damage by around 90%. #fastestwater @NFPA\_FSI
  - Residential fire sprinklers can cut fire losses by 70% compared to properties without sprinklers! #fastestwater @NFPA\_FSI @HSFCorg

- **Facebook**

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

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

Included in the toolkit is:

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Fire Sprinklers*

*General Tips*

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

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

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

## **OCTOBER: WEEK 4—Halloween Safety**

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

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/posts/FireCodesHauntedHousesMemo.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/FireCodesHauntedHousesMemo.pdf)

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Halloween fire safety tips:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/halloweensafetytips.pdf?la=en>
- “Halloween Safety Tips For Children” YouTube video:
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf\\_G0OHkih0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf_G0OHkih0)
- Report on structure fires that began from decorations:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/fact-sheets/decorationsfactsheet.pdf?la=en>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Make Halloween a little less scary. If you use candles, don't leave them unattended! #SafeHalloween @TNCommerceInsur
  - Don't be scared to be safe! This Halloween, make sure nothing blocks your escape--always keep exits clear of obstacles! @TNCommerceInsur
  - Flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are very flammable! Keep them away from all heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters @TNCommerceInsur
  - Battery operated candles look just as spooky as flame candles and are much safer! @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
  - Make Halloween safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips...<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/holidays/halloween/halloweensafetytipinforgraphic.jpg?as=1&iar=1&&h=465&w=600&la=en>
  - Need some safety tips for this Halloween? Let NFPA help! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf\\_G0OHkih0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf_G0OHkih0)
  - Battery operated candles look just as spooky as flame candles and are much safer! You can find different options at your local store.

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

- When choosing a costume, avoid billowing or long, trailing fabric. If you are making your own costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame. If your children wear masks, make sure eye holes are large enough to allow unobstructed views.

- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.
- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a flame candle, use extreme caution and keep them well attended at all times. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long fireplace matches or a long-nozzled candle lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters and such high-traffic areas as doorsteps, walkways, and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop, and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their faces with their hands, and rolling over and over.)
- Use flashlights or other battery-operated lights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- When attending a Halloween party, look for ways out of the home/venue and plan how you would get out in an emergency.
- If you have a Halloween party, check for cigarettes under furniture cushions and in areas where people might have smoked, before you go to bed.

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Candles*

#### *General Candle Safety*

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

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

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

# NOVEMBER 2020

## **EVENTS:**

- **End of Daylight Saving Time, Sunday November 1, 2020 – “Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries”**
- **Thanksgiving Holiday**

## **MONTHLY THEME: “A Fire-Safe Thanksgiving”**

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

## **November 2019 Topics**

Week 1 – Smoke Alarms/“Close The Door!”

Week 2 – Electrical Hazards

Week 3 – Cooking Safety – Turkey Fryers

Week 4 – Home Heating

## **Holiday Travel Safety**

Promote fire safety during holiday travel at Thanksgiving and the need for having an “escape plan” while staying in hotels, motels, and with family members. Also remind family members to have working smoke alarms and check smoke alarms on a regular basis. Thanksgiving is November 26<sup>th</sup> so remember fire safety while visiting friends and relatives and have a fire safe weekend.

## **Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries**

Clocks will fall back to standard time again on Sunday, November 1, 2020, when daylight savings time ends. As folks are changing their clocks, remind them to change the batteries in their smoke alarms, as well!

## **Prepare Local Vendors**

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

[https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data\\_General\\_Facts/Crowd\\_Control.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/Crowd_Control.pdf)

## **Christmas Tree Safety**

Many families will begin to purchase and decorate Christmas trees this month. Partner with your local Christmas tree farms, Boy Scout groups, and retailers to spread the message about Christmas tree safety. Tree tags with fire safety tips are available from the SFMO free of charge.

## **National Fire Service History**

- November 9, 1872 - Great Boston Fire (9 firefighter deaths)
- November 15, 1942 - Boston Wall Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- November 28, 1942 - Coconut Grove Nightclub Fire, Boston, MA (492 deaths)
- November 21, 1980 - MGM Grand Hotel Fire (85 deaths)
- November 29, 1988 - Kansas City Trailer Explosion (6 firefighter deaths)

## **Tennessee Specific History**

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

## **NOVEMBER: WEEK 1—Smoke Alarms/“Close The Door!”**

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



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

In 2019, the SFMO announced a partnership with Knox Box to help spread the “Close The Door!” message throughout the state. This partnership is a comprehensive campaign involving local fire departments aimed at educating local residents about the importance of doors in fire prevention.

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

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

- Official “Close The Door!” website
  - <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>
- “Close The Door!” informational flyer
  - [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/posts/Close\\_the\\_Door\\_Flyers.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Close_the_Door_Flyers.pdf)

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

- **Customizable press release**
  - [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/posts/Fire\\_Customizable\\_Press\\_Release.docx](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Fire_Customizable_Press_Release.docx)
- **Twitter:**
  - Did you know a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting equipment? Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
  - Simply closing the door behind you when escaping a fire can be the best decision you make. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
  - Fire doors prevent spread of smoke/flames in apartments & other buildings. Never disable a fire door. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
  - Fire moves fast. A closed door may slow a fire & provide precious seconds needed for escape. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
  - Make sure to have smoke alarms in each bedroom and outside each room when you sleep with the door closed! #closethedoorTN

- **Facebook:**

- Did you know that a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and life-saving equipment in a home? It can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
- Getting out of a burning building and calling 911 are crucial to survival during a fire, but closing doors during an escape can potentially limit the structural damage a fire can cause and possibly save lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
- Keep fire doors closed. These specialized doors are used to compartmentalize a building and prevent the spread of smoke and flames. Never wedge, disable, or prop open fire doors in apartments or other buildings. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
- Three simple words may save lives during a fire: “Close the door!” A closed door can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
- Make sure you have smoke alarms installed in each bedroom and outside each room when you sleep with your door closed. Interconnected alarms can save lives!

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Home Smoke Alarms*

##### *Installation*

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

#### *People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

**1.4.1** Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**1.4.2.1** When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.

#### *Home Fire Escape*

##### *Planning*

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

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

#### *Practicing the Home Fire Escape Drill*

**4.2.4** Close doors behind you as you leave.

## **NOVEMBER: Week 2 – Electrical Hazards**

**Overview:** Electricity helps make our lives easier but there are times when we can take its power and its potential for fire-related hazards for granted. In Tennessee, between 2010 and 2019, electrical malfunction accounted for 8.5% of all structure fires and 11.7% of all structure fire deaths. The dangers of electrical hazards are always present and common hazards include overloaded electrical outlets, arcing, and extension cords.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Electrical safety tip sheet
  - [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/electrical\\_safety\\_tips.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/electrical_safety_tips.pdf)
- “NFPA’s Electrical Safety PSA”
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-wXyw0tvSA>
- “Electrical Safety Messages in American Sign Language”
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_7RFiv7\\_lw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_7RFiv7_lw)



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

- **Twitter**
  - Our favorite cartoon, Dan Doofus, learns the hard way all about electrical safety, so you don’t have to: <https://youtu.be/l-wXyw0tvSA>
  - The leading areas of origin for electrical fires are the bedroom (14%), attic (12%), and kitchen (11%) <http://ow.ly/ZOdOf>
  - Safety tip: avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets. <http://ow.ly/ZOfkE>
  - Safety tip: avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time. <http://ow.ly/ZOgc3>
- **Facebook**
  - Nearly one-third (31%) of home electrical fires began with ignition of wire or cable insulation. <http://ow.ly/ZOdOf> #FireFacts
  - Looking for an easy to read electrical safety checklist to use at home or in your community? Here’s one from #NFPA: <http://ow.ly/ZOdOf>
  - NFPA’s electrical fire safety messages can be viewed in American #SignLanguage with this video: [https://youtu.be/x\\_7RFiv7\\_lw](https://youtu.be/x_7RFiv7_lw)
  - For some good reminders, download & review @NFPA’s electrical fire safety tip sheet: <http://ow.ly/ZOgc3>

- Social Media share images:

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**Electrical Safety Tip**

A flammable item that's too close to a lamp, light fixture or bulb is the leading factor contributing to home electrical fires. Give them space!

#NESM



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

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**Electrical Safety Tip**

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

#NESM



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

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**Electrical Fast Fact**

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

#NESM



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

- [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/home\\_safety\\_checklist.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/home_safety_checklist.pdf)

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Electrical*

*Inside the Home*

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

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

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

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

## **NOVEMBER: Week 3 – Cooking Safety – Turkey Fryers**

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

- An estimated 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated average of 5 deaths, 25 injuries, and \$21 million in property loss.
- Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur most frequently in the afternoon hours from noon to 4:00 p.m., peaking from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Air fryers are a safe alternative to oil fryers and taste just as good! Local restaurants and stores may also have fried turkeys available to purchase.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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



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

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

- Click here for more: <http://bit.ly/2u0xdDc>
- NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to look for grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants that sell deep fried turkeys, or consider a new type of “oil-less” turkey fryer. To find out more info, go here: <http://bit.ly/2w21pLL>

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

- Turkey fryers must always be used outdoors and a safe distance from buildings and other flammable materials.
- Never use turkey fryers indoors or on a wooden deck.
- Make sure the fryer is used on a flat surface to prevent accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you do not watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer, even if it is not in use. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use.
- To prevent spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- The National Turkey Foundation recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every 5 pounds of weight.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease or oil fire. If the fire is manageable, use your all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call the fire department by dialing 911.

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Cooking*

#### *Turkey Fryers*

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

## **NOVEMBER: Week 4 – Home Heating**

**Overview:** Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fire deaths nationally and the second leading known cause in Tennessee. Between 2010 and 2019, heating fires accounted for 6.6% of all structure fires and 10.8% of all structure fire deaths in Tennessee. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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

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

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

- With a few simple safety tips & precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS5xGfRO-Tw>
- **Facebook**
  - There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions, you can prevent most heating fires from happening. Check them out here: [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating\\_safety.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating_safety.pdf)
  - Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for 2 of every 5 (40%) of home heating fires and more than 4 out of 5 (84%) of home heating fire deaths. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating>
  - Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (56%) of home heating fire deaths. Find out more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/heating>

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

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

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

- Op/Ed on heating safety
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitoped.rtf?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Letter to the Editor on alternative heating
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitlettertoeditoralternativeheating.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Example response to local fire caused by heating equipment
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitlettertoeditorresponsetolocalfire.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Sample article on wood stoves:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitwoodstovearticle.docx?la=en>
- Sample article on portable space heaters:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitportableheatersarticle.docx?la=en>

- Sample article on keeping heaters “three feet away”:
  - [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/holidays/put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/winter\\_freeze\\_three\\_feet\\_away.docx?la=en](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/holidays/put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/winter_freeze_three_feet_away.docx?la=en)

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Heating*

##### *General Heating*

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

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

##### *Portable Electric Space Heaters*

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

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

# DECEMBER 2020

## **EVENTS:**

- **SFMO Poster Contest Judging**
- **Christmas Holiday**
- **New Year's Eve**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Holiday Fire Safety"**

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

## **December 2019 Topics**

Week 1 – Christmas Tree Safety

Week 2 – Candles and Holiday Décor Hazards

Week 3 – Holiday Cooking Safety

Week 4 – New Year's Celebration Safety: Fireworks

## **State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) Annual Poster Contest Judging**

The local community school children have been creating posters based on the national fire prevention theme of the year. The posters have been judged on a local level and the winners from each participating community will now be turned in to the SFMO for judging. The state contest will be held in December. All state winners and their families will be invited to attend the awards banquet held in 2021.

## **Holiday Fire Safety**

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

## **Christmas Tree Safety**

Many families will begin to purchase and decorate Christmas trees this month. Partner with your local Christmas tree farms, Boy Scout groups, and retailers to spread the message about Christmas tree safety. Tree tags with fire safety tips are available from the SFMO free of charge.

## **National Fire Service History**

- December 5, 1876 - NY Theater Fire (300 deaths)
- December 30, 1903 - Iroquois Theatre Fire (602 deaths)
- December 22, 1910 - Chicago Stockyard Fire (21 firefighter deaths)
- December 22, 1910 - PA Leather Factory Fire (13 firefighter deaths)
- December 7, 1946 - Atlanta Winecoff Hotel Disaster (119 deaths)
- December 1, 1958 - Our Lady of Angels School Fire (95 deaths)
- December 29, 1963 - Roosevelt Hotel Fire (22 deaths, including 1 firefighter)
- December 3, 1999 - Cold Storage Warehouse Fire (6 firefighter deaths)

## **Tennessee Specific History**

- December 9, 1911 - Briceville Coal Mine Explosion
- December 12, 1960 - Major Fire in Dayton, TN
- December 25, 1961 - Maxwell House Hotel Fire
- December 24, 1989 - Fire at high rise residence for the elderly in Johnson City, TN (16 deaths)
- December 22, 2008 - TVA Kingston Ash Spill
- December 9, 2014 - Hardin County Firefighter Gus Losleben dies in the line of duty in a traffic collision in route to a structure fire.
- December 23, 2018 - Residential fire in Collierville, TN (4 deaths)

## **DECEMBER: Week 1 – Christmas Tree Safety**

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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



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

- **Twitter**
  - We wish everyone a safe, fire-free holiday! Merry Christmas! <https://youtu.be/mRsjqGZFjLU> #FireSafety #merrychristmas
  - Need some Christmas cheer? Be a good elf! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRsjqGZFjLU> #merrychristmas #FireSafety #beagoodelf
  - Christmas trees are beautiful but can also be fire hazards. Here's what you should know: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zu-522zE3E>
- **Facebook**
  - As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>
  - One-quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems. Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur they are more likely to be serious. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>
  - Keep your tree and house safe! Make sure your Christmas tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

- Keep your Christmas tree watered! Learn more info here:  
<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmastreesafetytips.jpg>

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

- Picking the tree
  - If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
  - If you choose a live tree, select one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- Placing the tree
  - Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk.
  - Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Heat will dry out a tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than 2 weeks.
  - Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
  - Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
- Lighting the tree
  - Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
  - Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of strands to connect.
  - Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
  - Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Disposing of the tree
  - Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed outside against the home.
  - Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.

## **DECEMBER: Week 2 – Candles and Holiday Décor Hazards**

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Winter holiday safety tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/winterholidaysafety.pdf?la=en>
- "Be A Good Elf" YouTube video:
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRsjqGZFjLU>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Be careful when decorating! Choose flame resistant decorations and keep them away from candles. @TNCommerceInsur <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
  - Nearly 20% of home decoration fires are started by candles! Decorate carefully this Christmas. @TNCommerceInsur <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
  - Christmas reminder: before going to bed, be sure to blow out all candles and turn off all holiday lights @TNCommerceInsur <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
  - Battery operated candles look just as festive as flame candles and are much safer! @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
  - Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together, but that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season. <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
  - Be careful with holiday decorations! Deck the halls with decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant. Also, keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn. <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
  - Nearly 20% of home decoration fires are started by candles! Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2uVxhl5>
  - Battery operated candles look just as festive as flame candles and are much safer! You can find different options at your local store.

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

## **NFPA Messaging:**

### *Candles*

#### *General Candle Safety*

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

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

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

#### *Candle Use in Home Worship*

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

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

## **DECEMBER: Week 3 – Holiday Cooking Safety**

**Overview:** Christmas and Christmas Eve are two of the top three most dangerous days when it comes to cooking fires in the country. With people spending more of time in their kitchen during this time, it is important to remember basic cooking safety technique. Use a timer when there is food in the oven and limit distractions while cooking. Remember to never leave cooking unattended and keep children away from the stove and hot food or pans. Don't let your holidays be ruined by a kitchen fire!

One common cooking practice that is used around holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving is turkey frying. It is recommended that consumers utilize air fryers or purchase fried turkeys that have been prepared by local restaurants or stores. Both the SFMO and NFPA discourage the use of turkey fryers in residences.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- "Keep An Eye On What You Fry!" infographic
  - [http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Cooking\\_Fire-Safety\\_NFPA.pdf](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Cooking_Fire-Safety_NFPA.pdf)
- "NFPA Safety Tips – Cooking Safety" YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm6UMPP2z8I>
- Cooking safety checklist
  - [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/cooking\\_safety\\_checklist.pdf?la=en](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/cooking_safety_checklist.pdf?la=en)
- "Keep Kids Away From Cooking Areas" YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kuknDnhJHc>
- "Prevent Scalds and Burns" YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P09mb-BFQ2E>
- "Watch What You Heat!" YouTube video
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=xEqRIqaiksY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=xEqRIqaiksY)

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

- **Twitter**
  - Cooking fires increase 58% on Christmas day... don't let fire ruin your holiday!  
@TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
  - Keep an eye on what you fry! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of all kitchen fires.  
@TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
  - Keep your cooking area clear of anything that can catch fire. Be safe this holiday!  
@TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
- **Facebook**
  - 42% of surveyed consumers say they have left the kitchen to talk or text on the phone, and 35% report using the computer to check email while food is cooking. If you do a lot of cooking, invest in a second or third timer. They're an inexpensive way to stay safe while ensuring that your holiday dishes do not overcook. Learn more here:  
<https://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx?la=en>

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop. Also, stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food. Learn more here: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx?la=en>
- Nearly half (45%) of consumers say they have left the room to watch television or listen to music while preparing food. Multi-tasking during the busy holiday season is tempting. If you succumb, it's important not to leave the stove or oven unattended. Learn more here: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx?la=en>

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

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep things that catch fire (paper and food products, curtains, etc.) away from the stovetop.
- Have a “kid-free” zone of at least 3 feet around the stove area.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.
- Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- If you have a stove fire, when in doubt, get out and call 911.

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Cooking*

#### *Stay Alert*

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

#### *Watch What You Heat!*

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

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

#### *What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire*

**8.4.1.1** Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

## **DECEMBER: Week 4 – New Year’s Celebration Safety: Fireworks**

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



**Resources:** *The following resources are available:*

- “Consumer Fireworks Safety Public Service Announcement” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcFuIEwbITA>
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Public Assembly Safety” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Im7GRgE4wc>
- Safety in places of public assembly tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/publicsafetyoccupanciessafetytips.pdf?la=en>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Celebrate safely! If you use fireworks, be sure to follow these important safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2vkNDWE>
  - Leave leftover fireworks on the ground after a #fireworks display. They may still be active! <http://bit.ly/2vkNDWE>
- **Facebook**
  - This NFPA public service announcement, "Safe? Sane?" urges people not to use consumer fireworks because they are too dangerous. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAEzVPSp3Q>
  - Patrick and Marci Foy, and their daughter, Olivia, were injured while attending a family celebration, and were among more than a dozen people hurt. Hear them tell their story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIAB-NuZYfl>
  - Consumer fireworks include sparklers and firecrackers. Did you know that the tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, which is hot enough to cause 3rd degree burns? [www.nfpa.org/fireworks](http://www.nfpa.org/fireworks)

**Educator Tip:** Offer to organize an official fireworks watch party, one where the display of fireworks is arranged and performed by a professional pyrotechnic company. These can be very successful in bringing together the community for an evening of celebratory fireworks while also keeping everyone safe.

**NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

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

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

# JANUARY 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **New Year's Day Holiday**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Stay Warm, Stay Safe"**

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

## **January 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Hazardous Materials in the Home

Week 2 – Winter Weather

Week 3 – Heating Hazards: Wood Stoves & Alternative Heating

Week 4 – Manufactured Home Safety

## **New Year's Day Resolutions**

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

## **National Fire Service History**

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

## **Tennessee Specific History**

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

## JANUARY: Week 1 – Hazardous Materials in the Home

**Overview:** Many common household materials can also be a fire hazard if not handled or stored properly. Items such as lithium ion and 9-volt batteries should be kept away from children and installed properly. To avoid a short circuit, corrosive material leaks, and overheating, batteries should be kept in the original package until ready to use and should be disposed of at a recycling center.

Other items such as gasoline cans, oily rags, paint cans, and other solvents should be stored in their original containers in an outbuilding, shed, or detached garage. These items should never be stored inside the home or in an attached garage. All hazardous materials should be disposed of at a designated recycling center.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- 9-Volt battery safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/9VoltBatterySafety.ashx>
- Lithium ion battery safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/LithiumIonBatterySafety.ashx>
- Oily rags safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/OilyRagsSafetyTips.ashx>
- News on ammonium nitrate explosion
  - <https://www.npr.org/2020/08/14/901795589/after-beirut-experts-warn-of-dangerous-gaps-in-u-s-oversight-of-ammonium-nitrate>
- Proper battery disposal
  - <https://www.homedepot.com/c/ab/how-to-dispose-of-batteries/9ba683603be9fa5395fab90124a115f1>
- Proper hazardous material disposal
  - <https://www.tn.gov/environment/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program.html>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Do you know what's in your garage? Keep hazardous materials out! <https://bit.ly/2Y3RQeK>
  - Are your battery-operated electronics safe? Check out these safety tips: <https://bit.ly/33ZyDPf>
  - Always read labels so you know how to properly store and dispose of hazardous materials.
  - Never pour where you store! Always pour gasoline and other hazardous materials outside.

- **Facebook**

- Do you know what's in your garage? You can prevent a house fire by keeping flammable materials in a shed or detached building. <https://bit.ly/2Y3RQeK>
- Batteries may be small but they can cause some big problems! Check out these battery safety tips: <https://bit.ly/33ZyDPf>
- Labels on household products can tell you how to properly store and dispose of materials that may be a fire or health hazard. Always take hazardous materials to a designated disposal site.
- Never pour where you store! Always pour gasoline and other hazardous materials outside.

**Educator Tip:** Many hardware stores and community trash sites offer disposal locations or pick-up for hazardous materials. Local hospitals and health departments can offer assistance if someone comes in contact with a hazardous or corrosive material.

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Flammable and Combustible Liquids*

**19.1.2** Never smoke when you work with flammable or combustible liquids.

**19.1.4** Store gasoline in a tightly capped container that is specifically sold for that purpose. Store the container outside the home in your garage or garden shed, never in your basement.

*Lithium Ion Batteries*

*General Tips*

**20.1.3** Always follow manufacturer's instructions that come with the device.

**20.1.14** Stop using the lithium ion battery if you notice any of the following problem signs: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device outside and away from anything that can catch fire. Call the manufacturer or your fire department's non-emergency number.

*Battery Disposal*

**20.2.3.1** Take lithium ion batteries to a recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.

## **JANUARY: Week 2 – Winter Weather**

**Overview:** The threat of winter fires is real. Fifteen percent of all fire deaths occur in January making it the deadliest month. Additionally, the 2nd week of January is nearly twice as deadly as the rest of the year. Use these national statistics to help citizens understand the severity and prevalence of winter fires:

- Although at its peak in December, residential building fire incidence is collectively highest in the 3 winter months of January, February, and March.
- 890 people die in winter home fires each year.
- \$2 billion in property loss occurs from winter home fires.
- 67% of winter fires occur in one- and two-family homes.
- Winter home fires account for only 8% of the total number of fires in the U.S. but result in 30% of all fire deaths.
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.
- 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.



Use of generators and alternative heating sources not only cause an increased fire hazard, they pose the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. It is important to make sure carbon monoxide and smoke alarms are working properly to avoid injury or death.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Winter fire safety outreach materials from USFA
  - <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html>
- “Put A Freeze on Winter Fires” infographic
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Holidays/Put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/2018/WinterFreezeInfographic.ashx>
- “Be Fire Smart” infographic
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Holidays/Put-a-freeze-on-winter-fires/2019/PutAFreezeElectricalInfographic.ashx>
- Home fires involving heating equipment
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/appliances-and-equipment/heating-equipment>
- “Home heating advice from NFPA – Put a Freeze on Winter Fires” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqJQfteHPCK>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Stay warm, stay safe! January is one of the deadliest months for home fires in TN. Safety tips here: <http://ow.ly/W26oD>

- Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, & February. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/W26oD>
- Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Please review @NFPA's safety information: <http://ow.ly/W26zO> #WinterSafety

- **Facebook**

- Stay warm, stay safe! Keep any combustible material at least 3 feet from any heating equipment. Also have heating equipment & chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional. <http://ow.ly/W266z> #WinterSafety
- Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, & February. Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Find more tips here: <http://ow.ly/W26zO>
- Did you know that heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 6 reported home fires (and 1 in every 5 home fire deaths)? For more info, go to [https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Heating\\_Safety.ashx?la=en](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Heating_Safety.ashx?la=en)

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

- Heating and cooking are the leading causes of fatal fires in January (40%).
- There are 24 home fires every day in January, one per hour.
- In January, there is an increase in the number of fire deaths in mobile or manufactured homes. 23% of all fire deaths in January occur in mobile or manufactured homes compared to 16% for all months.

Also, help by sharing this YouTube video on social media, about the deadliness of winter fires: <https://youtu.be/UDQH3BlrA9k>

**NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

Some types of fire related hazards present during and after a winter storm:

1. Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards.
2. Damaged or downed utility lines can present a fire and life safety hazard.
3. Water damaged appliances and utilities can be electrically charged.
4. Frozen water pipes can burst and cause safety hazards.
5. Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers, and leaking vehicle gas tanks may explode or ignite.
6. Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be hazardous.
7. Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid, and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area.
8. If your home has sustained flood or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power.
9. Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
10. Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.
11. Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.
12. Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage.

13. Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door(s) open.
14. Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion.
15. Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by a professional.
16. Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage.
17. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a backup battery and install a new battery at least once a year.
18. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home.
19. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly. If you do not have a 10-year alarm, batteries should be replaced with new ones at least once a year.
20. If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of debris for easy access by the fire department.

## **JANUARY: Week 3 – Heating Hazards: Wood Stoves & Alternative Heating**

**Overview:** Heating is one of the primary known causes of fires during the cold months (December, January, and February) in Tennessee. From 2010-2019, heating was responsible for 6.6% of all structure fires and 10.8% of all structure fire deaths. Alternative heating sources (wood stoves, oil stoves, space heaters, etc.) are common in Tennessee and are more hazardous than central heating sources (electric, gas). Reaching residents that use alternative heating can be challenging—use the resources and tips below to help reach as many as possible.



Tennessee suffered 19 deaths from portable heater fires from 2015-2019. An average of 63 portable heating fires and \$2.3 million in property loss are reported each year in Tennessee.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

“Wood Stove Heating Safety Tips” YouTube video

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FBtLNxcYZE>
- Wood stove safety “do’s & don’ts”
  - <http://www.iii.org/article/wood-stove-safety>
- Fireplace safety from Chimney Safety Institute of America
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ifQzltGn0Q>
- Facts about chimney fires (with wood stove info)
  - <http://www.csia.org/chimneyfires.html>
- Wood stove safety tips
  - <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/fire-safety/wood-stove-safety-tips.aspx>
- Electric portable space heater safety:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>
- “Space Heater Virtual Demonstration” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIFxWd7DSsg>
- Heating safety tip sheet
  - [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating\\_safety.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating_safety.pdf)
- “Heating Safety Messages in American Sign Language” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCtnLC6-JPg>
- Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment NFPA report
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/appliances-and-equipment/heating-equipment>

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

- **Customizable Press Release**

- <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/heating-kit/heatingkitalternativeheatingnewsrelease.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en>

- **Twitter**

- Never extend a stove pipe through a wall or ceiling—this can cause a major fire hazard! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- A clean stove is a happy stove! Remove ashes regularly and inspect your stove for wear and tear. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTn
- Never burn anything other than wood in your wood stove. Other combustibles could damage your stove or give off toxic fumes. @TNCommerceInsur
- Don't "over fire" your stove! This can result in damage to your stove and home. Make only a fire that your stove can handle @TNCommerceInsur
- Nearly 20% of home heating fires were caused by portable heaters. Check out these safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2v2aTX3> @TNCommerceInsur
- Always have a 3-foot safe zone around all space heaters. Check here for more safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2v2aTX3> @TNCommerceInsur
- Stay safe while you stay warm! Follow these heating safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2v2aTX3> @TNCommerceInsur

- **Facebook**

- Never "over fire" your stove! In other words, never make a fire larger than the stove can handle. Over firing will result in flames entering the flue pipe or chimney, and can cause damage to the stove, the chimney connector or the chimney itself, which could result in a house fire. To avoid over firing, check the instruction manual or with the manufacturer. For more safety tips, go here: <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/fire-safety/wood-stove-safety-tips.aspx>
- Some helpful wood stove safety tips: Always make sure there is enough clearance between the stove and combustible materials, including floors, walls and ceilings. Always place the stove on a noncombustible, fire resistant base. Only burn dry, well-seasoned wood. For more tips, go here: <http://www.iii.org/article/wood-stove-safety>
- Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for 2 of every 5 (40%) of home heating fires and 4 out of 5 (84%) of home heating fire deaths. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>
- Placing things that can burn too close to heating equipment or placing heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattress, or bedding, was the leading factor contributing to ignition in fatal home heating fires and accounted for more than half (56%) of home heating fire deaths. Learn more here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>
- If you use portable space heaters, make sure to follow these safety tips. They may save your life! <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/portableheatersafety.pdf?la=en>

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

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

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

## **NFPA Messaging:**

### *Heating*

#### *General Heating*

**10.1.3** All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.

#### *Portable Electric Space Heaters*

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

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

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

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

#### *Wood-Burning and Pellet Stoves*

**10.4.1** Have a qualified professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys following the manufacturer’s instructions.

**10.4.3** In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood.

#### *Fireplaces*

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

## **JANUARY: Week 4 – Manufactured Home Safety**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Fire safety in manufactured homes
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ManufacturedHomesSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>
- SFMO information on manufactured housing and modular buildings
  - <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/sections-programs/fire-manufactured-housing.html>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Buying a manufactured home? Make sure it has working smoke alarms! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - 2 steps to having a safe manufactured home: 1: working smoke alarms, 2: have an escape plan! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - If using space heaters in a manufactured home, make sure they are 3 feet away from anything that can burn! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- **Facebook**
  - When buying a manufactured home, make sure you are buying a HUD-certified home. This means the home was built after 1976 and bears the HUD label certifying compliance with safety standards. Find out more here: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ManufacturedHomesSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>
  - Always make sure your manufactured home has working smoke alarms in every sleeping area. For more info, and to request a free smoke alarm, go to [www.tn.gov/fire](http://www.tn.gov/fire)
  - Plan your escape! Know ahead of time how you will get out if you have a fire in your manufactured home. Develop an escape plan and have an alternate exit out of every room. Find out more here: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ManufacturedHomesSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>

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

- Choose a manufactured home built after June 15, 1976, that has the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) label certifying that the home meets the minimum safety standards.
- Keep gasoline, charcoal lighter, and other flammable liquids locked in an outdoor shed. Never store items under your manufactured home. Store firewood away from the home.
- Install skirting material to keep leaves and other debris and combustible items from blowing under your manufactured home where it could easily catch fire and spread into the home.

- Be sure your manufactured home has enough smoke alarms. If your home does not have smoke alarms in or near every sleeping room and in or near the family/living area(s), immediately install new alarms and fresh batteries to protect these rooms. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Have a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place. Make sure all ways out of the home are cleared of clutter and easy to use. Practice your fire escape plan at least twice a year.
- If smoke alarms sound when cooking, consider moving the alarm further from the kitchen area or install a photoelectric type alarm, which is less sensitive to cooking.
- Consider having a licensed electrician inspect the electrical system in your manufactured home to be sure it is safe and meets applicable National Electrical Code® requirements.
- Never add too many plugs to outlets, extension cords or electrical circuits. If the circuit breaker trips or fuses blow, call a licensed electrician to check your system.
- Have smokers smoke outside the home. Provide large, non-tip ashtrays and empty them frequently. Douse butts with water before throwing them away.
- Do not smoke in bed or in a chair in which you are prone to falling asleep.
- Keep space heaters and candles at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn. Turn off portable space heaters and blow out candles before falling asleep or when leaving a room.
- When considering a new manufactured home, ask if residential sprinklers are available as an option.

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

**NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

See the following resource: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ManufacturedHomesSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>

# FEBRUARY 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **National Burn Awareness Week (February- 7-13)**  
<http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>
- **SFMO Poster Contest Awards Banquet**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Burn Awareness & Prevention"**

**EDUCATOR TIP:** Want to offer fire safety programs to homeschoolers in your community? Try starting with the local education agency (LEA) home school coordinator for your area:

[https://npidb.org/organizations/agencies/local-education-agency-lea\\_251300000x/tn/](https://npidb.org/organizations/agencies/local-education-agency-lea_251300000x/tn/)

## **February 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Preventing Scalds & Burns

Week 2 – Pet Fire Safety

Week 3 – Kitchen Grease Fire Safety

Week 4 – Fire Safety for Children

## **National Fire Service History**

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

## **Tennessee Specific History**

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

## **FEBRUARY: Week 1 – Preventing Scalds & Burns**

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

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

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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

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

- **Twitter**
  - Scalds = 2nd leading cause of all burn injuries. Be careful around hot liquids like bath water, coffee, and microwaved soup. @TNCommerceInsur
  - Always have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around stoves/areas where hot food/drink is prepared or carried. @TNCommerceInsur
  - Not all burns are caused by fire! Cleaners, weed killers, and pool chemicals can cause burns. Keep these locked away/out of reach. #NBAW2020
  - Common, everyday items like candles, matches, and lighters can cause devastating injuries. Be safe! @TNCommerceInsur #NBAW2020
  - Not all burns are caused by fire! Household items like irons, hair straighteners, and stoves can cause devastating burn injuries. #NBAW2020

- **Facebook**

- Scalds = 2nd leading cause of all burn injuries. Be careful around hot liquids like bath water, coffee, and microwaved soup! To learn more, go here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/scaldprevention.pdf?la=en>
- Always have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around stoves/areas where hot food/drink is prepared or carried. To learn more, go here: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/scaldprevention.pdf?la=en>
- Not all burns are caused by fire! They can also be caused by common household products like cleaners, weed killers, and pool chemicals. Keep these locked away and out of reach of children! For more information, please visit: <http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>
- Not all burns are caused by fire! Did you know that scald burns (caused by hot liquids or steam) are the number one cause of burn injury for children under the age of five? For scald prevention tips, visit [www.flashsplash.org](http://www.flashsplash.org)
- Not all burns are caused by fire! Electricity can cause burns when a plugged-in appliance comes into contact with water, the power supply is not shut down before making home repairs, or if a child bites on electrical cords. Keep your family safe from electrical burns. For more info, go here: <http://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>

**Educator Tip:** “Learn Not To Burn” is a comprehensive burn awareness program aimed at teaching kids about the importance of burn/fire safety. The program reaches children (preschool to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) using proven educational strategies that incorporate our philosophy of teaching positive, practical fire safety messaging. To access the full “Learn Not To Burn” program, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/learn-not-to-burn>

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Burns*

*Preventing Scalds and Burns in the Kitchen*

**9.1.1** Teach children that hot things burn.

**9.1.3** Turn pot handles away from the stove’s edge.

*Hot Tap Water and Scald Burns*

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

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

*Treatment of Burns*

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

## **FEBRUARY: Week 2 – Pet Fire Safety**

**Overview:** Nationwide, 500,000 pets are harmed in home fires and cause 750 home fires each year. Curious animals may bump into candles or lamps, chew on power cords, or turn on cooking equipment. It is important to make sure that all flammable and heat-producing equipment is secured properly to keep your home safe from pesky pets.



It is also important to make sure that outdoor animals have a safe home. Hay, heating lamps, and electrical wiring can cause a fire that puts animals and their owners at risk.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Pet safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/PetSafetyTips.ashx?as=1&iar=1&hash=F73C866C4C9397D131F8F0ED7707F5E2>
- Chicken coop safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ChickenCoopSafetyTips.ashx>
- ASPCA “Fire Safety and Pets”
  - <https://www.asPCA.org/news/fire-safety-and-your-pets-keeping-them-safe-unexpected#:~:text=Ensure%20there%20are%20no%20areas,pets%20are%20inside%20your%20home.>
- Fire proofing for pets
  - <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/pet-fire-safety.html>
- Pet fire safety
  - <https://www.servicemasterbyzaba.com/blog/pet-fire-safety/>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Protect your pets from fire with these helpful tips: <https://bit.ly/2FqH2RB>
  - Secure power cords and appliances to keep curious critters from causing damage to your home. <https://bit.ly/2FqH2RB>
  - When the chickens roost, make sure they are protected! Keep heat lamps away from flammable items. <https://bit.ly/2PVzWXj>
- **Facebook**
  - Curious cats and pesky pups can cause a fire if your house isn’t pet-proofed! Make sure power cords and cooking equipment is secured and hot appliances are out of reach <https://bit.ly/2FqH2RB>.
  - Make sure your backyard chicken coop is safe. Check for any damaged wiring and keep heat lamps clean and away from flammable material <https://bit.ly/2PVzWXj>.

- Pets are precious but never go back into a house for your animals if there is a fire! Tell the fire department if your pet is trapped.

**Educator Tip:** Contact your local animal shelter for tips on how to keep your pets safe at home. NFPA also offers tips on how to keep farm animals safe at [www.nfpa.org/farms](http://www.nfpa.org/farms).

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### Safety tips

- Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

#### Smoke alarms

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

## **FEBRUARY: Week 3 – Kitchen Grease Fire Safety**

**Overview:** Unattended cooking is one of the leading contributing factors for cooking fires. In addition, grease, fat, or butter is one of the leading items first ignited for all cooking fires. Out of 10,034 cooking fires between 2015 and 2019, 57.6% had either grease or oil as the first item ignited.

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

The best way to avoid the devastation that grease fires can cause is to prevent them from happening in the first place. Always stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, and broiling and keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of 3 feet around the stove.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Cooking safety tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/cookingsafety.pdf?la=en>
- “Putting out kitchen grease fires” YouTube video
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0RgdYkc\\_Po](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0RgdYkc_Po)
- Prevent kitchen fires
  - [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/kitchen\\_fires\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/kitchen_fires_flyer.pdf)
- How to put out a grease fire
  - <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/how-to-put-out-a-grease-fire/>
- Oven and stovetop safety
  - <http://www.preventfire.com/adults/oven-and-stove-top-safety.html>

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

- **Customizable press release**
  - [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/response\\_to\\_cooking\\_fire\\_letter.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/response_to_cooking_fire_letter.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en)
  - [http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/open\\_house.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en](http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/cooking-kit/open_house.doc?as=1&iar=1&la=en)
- **Twitter**
  - Never use water to put out a grease fire. Cover with a pan or simply get out and call 911! @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
  - Best way to fight a grease fire? Prevent it from happening! Always stay in kitchen when cooking & keep stove clean. @TNCommercelnsur
  - Unattended cooking + grease or fat around a cooking eye = dangerous combination. Stay safe in the kitchen! @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN

- **Facebook**

- If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding a lid over the pan. DON'T use water to put out a grease fire. For more cooking safety tips, go here: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx?la=en>
- If you have a cooking fire, when in doubt, just get out and call 911. For more safety tips, visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx?la=en> Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove. For more cooking safety tips, visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx?la=en>

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

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Cooking*

*What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire*

**8.4.1.1** Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

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

**8.4.3** When in doubt, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. After you leave, call 911 or the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's telephone.

## **FEBRUARY: Week 4 – Fire Safety for Children**

**Overview:** One of the primary causes of residential fire deaths and injuries for children under ten is playing with a heat source, which includes lighters and matches. Between 2015 and 2019, 923 fires in which playing with a heat source was a contributing factor were reported by Tennessee fire departments. Fires resulting from playing with a heat source caused 3 civilian deaths, 24 civilian injuries, and \$9 million in property damage in that time.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Children and fire safety tips
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ChildrenAndFireSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>
- “Young Fire Setters” safety tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/youngfiresetterstipsheet.pdf?la=en>
- “Young Fire Setters” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqrlUYTKYq8>
- Playing with fire – NFPA report
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/arson-and-juvenile-firesetting/children-playing-with-fire>
- “The Fire Challenge”: A conversation with parents & caretakers lesson
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/lesson-plans/lessonfirechallenge.pdf?la=en>

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

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

lighters, and are most likely to die in them. For more tips, go here: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ChildrenAndFireSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>

- If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unusually fascinated with fire, get help. Your local fire department, school, or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts who know how to teach children about fire in an appropriate way. For more information, go to: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ChildrenAndFireSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>

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

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

#### *Matches and Lighters*

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

**15.1.2** Purchase and use only child resistant lighters.

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

In 2008, Tennessee banned the sale of novelty lighters in the state. These lighters usually resemble cartoon characters, toys, guns, watches, musical instruments, and animals, and often include entertaining

audio and visual effects. They pose a serious fire hazard, especially in the hands of children who mistake them for toys. Toy-like or novelty lighters have been responsible for injuries, deaths, and accidents across the nation.

# MARCH 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **Beginning of Daylight Savings Time, Sunday, March 14, 2021**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Change your Clock/Change your Batteries"**

### **March 2021 Topics**

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

Week 2 – "Get Out, Stay Out"

Week 3 – Medical Oxygen and Fire

Week 4 – Escape Planning/"Close the Door!"

### **National Fire Service History**

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

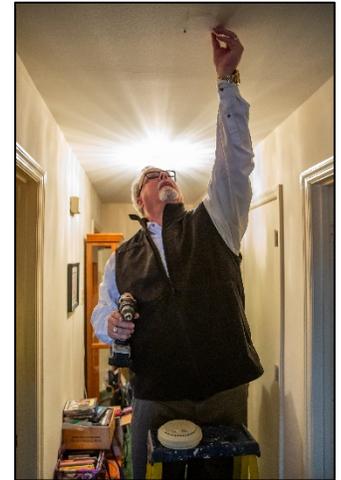
### **Tennessee Specific History**

- March 22, 1916 - Great Nashville Fire
- March 21, 1988 - Oakville nursing home fire Kills 3 in Memphis, TN
- March 1, 2002 - Jefferson City firefighter dies in house fire
- March 14, 2008 - Major Downtown Fire in Baxter, TN
- March 17, 2013 - Black Bear Ridge Resort conflagration destroys 59 cabins in Sevier County
- March 27, 2013 - Fire sprinkler system activated and contained a fire at the Carey Counseling Center in rural Carroll County preventing death, injury, and major property damage
- March 29, 2019 – Fire in Memphis home kills 5, including 3 children

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

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

Since many residents have smoke alarms with a 9-volt backup battery, the "change your clock, change your battery" campaign is a tradition revolving around the spring daylight savings time change. The message: when you change your clocks one hour ahead in the spring (this year on March 14<sup>th</sup>) also change the 9-volt batteries in your smoke alarm. Note: there are some dangers inherent in 9-volt batteries themselves. See supplemental information section for more details on this.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Smoke alarms at home tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/smokealarms.pdf>
- "Chirps Mean Change" social media image
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/memechirpsmeanchange.jpg?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- "Test Your Smoke Alarms!" cartoon image
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/fire-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms/sergeant-alarm.jpg?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Calendar tear-sheet for families:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw11/fpw2011tearcalendar.pdf?la=en>
- "Fire Safety Video for Kids with Steve Songs & Sparky The Fire Dog"
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OVHhkqpZf8>
- "Home Smoke Alarm Basics" YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LQ6uhXAzvk>
- "Safety Tips: Smoke Alarm" YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCkHtCLpLbY>
- SFMO commercial (Smoke Alarms)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REIS6-NZovY>
- "Kix Brooks/Life Savers Ad"
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ4SiUxPuSw>
- SFMO *Get Alarmed, TN* Program
  - <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/get-alarmed-tn.html>

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

- **Customizable press releases and other print media tools**

- <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/community-tool-kits/keeping-your-community-safe-and-sound>

- **Twitter**

- Change your clock, change your battery! Smoke alarms save lives, make sure they have working batteries. @TNCommerceInsur



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



- Don't forget to change your batteries when you change your clock! Always test your smoke alarms once a month. @TNCommerceInsur
- What is that chirp you hear? It's probably your smoke alarm telling you to change its battery! Listen to it! @TNCommerceInsur
- Want smoke alarms with no hassle? Go with 10-year worry free smoke alarms—no batteries to change! @TNCommerceInsur
- *Get Alarmed, TN* The SFMO has been installing smoke alarms for the last 8 years—join us! @TNCommerceInsur

- **Facebook**

- Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you an early warning so you can get outside quickly. For more safety tips, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms>

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For more safety tips go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms>
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working. Also, replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. For more safety tips, go here: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms>
- The SFMO offers bed shaker alarms for the hard of hearing and deaf population. For more info, and to request a free smoke alarm, go to [www.tn.gov/fire](http://www.tn.gov/fire)
- Some alarms are effective for up to ten years. Check the manufacture date to make sure yours aren't out of date.
- Do you have enough smoke alarms in your home? There should be an alarm in every bedroom, outside every bedroom, and on every level of the home.

**Educator Tip:** Sign up to participate in the SFMO's *Get Alarmed, TN* program. This state-wide fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program started in 2012 and has distributed over 235,000 smoke alarms to participating fire departments to date. To get started, go to <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/get-alarmed-tn.html> and look under "Organization Administrators Toolbox" for information on how to get your department on board.

For more information, please contact Alexandra Fontana ([Alexandra.Fontana@tn.gov](mailto:Alexandra.Fontana@tn.gov)).

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Home Smoke Alarms*

##### *Installation*

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

##### *Testing and Maintenance*

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

#### *People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

**1.4.1** Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**1.4.2.1** When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.

#### *Battery Replacement*

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

#### *Smoke Alarm Replacement*

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

## **MARCH: Week 2 – “Get Out, Stay Out”**

**Overview:** The safest option for anyone inside a building that is on fire is to get out immediately and call 911. It is also very important to stay out once you get out. Too many times, responding fire departments in Tennessee have seen injury or death occur because the resident re-entered a building that was on fire, either in attempt to rescue another person or to recover personal items. Between 2015 and 2019, 30 residents in Tennessee died in house fires due to re-entering the structure after escape.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- “Get Out and Stay Alive” tips from USFA
  - [https://www.judsonu.edu/uploadedFiles/Judson\\_Public/Campus\\_Life/Campus\\_Services/Campus\\_Safety/Fire\\_Safety/gettingout.pdf](https://www.judsonu.edu/uploadedFiles/Judson_Public/Campus_Life/Campus_Services/Campus_Safety/Fire_Safety/gettingout.pdf)
- Basic fire escape planning
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning>
- “Escape Planning” tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
- Create a home escape plan
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf>



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

- **Twitter**
  - Get out, stay out! Never re-enter a building that’s on fire. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Smoke alarm goes off due to a fire? Get out immediately and call 911. Never go back inside a burning building. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Does everyone in your house know two ways out of every room? For more fire safety tips: <https://www.nfpa.org> @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Once you get out, stay out! Stay at your meeting place until the fire department arrives. For more tips: <https://www.nfpa.org> @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
  - Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues. For more safety tips, go here: <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
  - Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. For more tips, visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>

- Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire. <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
- Everyone in your home should know how to escape if there is a fire, including children. Practice the escape plan twice a year and make sure everyone knows two ways out of every room. For more tips, go here: <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Home Fire Escape*

##### *Planning*

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

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

##### *Practicing the Home Fire Drill*

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

## **MARCH: Week 3 – Medical Oxygen and Fire**

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

Between 2015 and 2019, 18 Tennessee residents died from home fires where medical oxygen equipment was involved in ignition.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Medical oxygen safety tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/oxygensafety.pdf?la=en>
- “NFPA Safety Tips – Portable Home Oxygen” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNvXGEiqqks>
- “Home Medical Oxygen Fire Safety” YouTube video
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXqX-WQ\\_zoY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXqX-WQ_zoY)

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

- **Twitter**
  - Don't smoke with medical oxygen present! There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
  - Stay safe! Keep oxygen cylinders at least 5 feet from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices @TNCommercelnsur #FireSafeTN
  - Be careful with medical oxygen! Oxygen isn't flammable, but fire needs it to burn. More oxygen present = more fire risk @TNCommercelnsur
- **Facebook**
  - Don't smoke with medical oxygen present! There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. For more safety tips, visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/OxygenSafety.ashx?la=en>
  - Stay safe! Keep oxygen cylinders at least 5 feet from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices. For more safety tips, visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/OxygenSafety.ashx?la=en>
  - The air is normally 21% oxygen. Oxygen is not flammable, but fire needs it to burn. When more oxygen is present, any fire that starts will burn hotter and faster than usual. More oxygen in the air means that things such as hair, plastic, skin oils, clothing, and furniture can catch fire at lower temperatures. To learn more about medical oxygen, please visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/OxygenSafety.ashx?la=en>

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

Some ways to help include:

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Medical Oxygen*

**18.1.1** Medical oxygen can cause material to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

**18.1.2** A patient on oxygen should not smoke.

**18.1.3** Never smoke where medical oxygen is used.

**18.1.5** Keep oxygen cylinders at least 5 feet from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices.

**18.1.6** Body oil, hand lotion, and items containing oil and grease can easily burn. Keep oil and grease away from where oxygen is in use.

**18.1.9** Where medical oxygen is in use, never use a sparking toy, an open flame such as a match or lighter, a fireplace or stove, or any other device fueled by gas, kerosene, wood, or coal.

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

**Overview:** While the two most important things to remember in the event of a fire are to get out of the building and call 911, fire officials point out that simply closing doors behind you on your way out can help stop flames and smoke from spreading to other rooms. It also deprives a fire of oxygen, helping to slow it down and allowing occupants more time to escape.

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Home fire escape plan checklist & map
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- “Plan 2 Ways Out!” infographic
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17infographic.png>
- Escape planning tip sheet flyer
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
- “Plan Your Home Fire Escape” 10-minute mini-lesson
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw1710minutelessonplanescape.pdf>

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

- Customizable press release
  - [http://tn.gov/assets/entities/commerce/attachments/Fire\\_Customizable\\_Press\\_Release.doc](http://tn.gov/assets/entities/commerce/attachments/Fire_Customizable_Press_Release.doc)  
[X](#)
- Twitter:
  - Home escape plans save lives! Learn how to develop one with all members of your household. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Know two ways out of every room in your home! Hint: It’s usually a door and a window. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - 71% of Americans surveyed say they have an escape plan, but less than half have practiced it. Practice! @TNCommerceInsur
  - Did you know a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting equipment? Learn more here: <https://www.tn.gov/commerce> #closethedoor
  - Simply closing the door behind you when escaping a fire can be the best decision you make. <https://www.tn.gov/commerce> #closethedoor
  - Fire doors prevent spread of smoke/flames in apartments & other buildings. Never disable a fire door. <https://www.tn.gov/commerce> #closethedoor
- Facebook
  - Would you and your family members know what to do in a real fire situation? Develop a home escape plan together and practice it. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>

- It's 2 o'clock in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. If you're not sure what you'd do next, it's time to learn! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
- In a fire, working smoke alarms alert you in time to escape safely. Make sure you know how to use those minutes wisely. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it twice a year with all members of your household! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
- Did you know that a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and life-saving equipment in a home? It can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
- Getting out of a burning building and calling 911 are crucial to survival during a fire, but closing doors during an escape can potentially limit the structural damage a fire can cause and possibly save lives. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Home Fire Escape*

#### *Planning*

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

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

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

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

#### *Practicing the Home Fire Escape Drill*

**4.2.4** Close doors behind you as you leave.

# APRIL 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **Wildfire Safety Awareness Month**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Get your Smokey On"**

### **April 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Outdoor Burning

Week 2 – Hydrogen Cyanide & Toxic Gases

Week 3 – Wildfire Preparedness

Week 4 – Security Bars

### **National Fire Service History**

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

### **Tennessee Specific History**

- April 13, 1878 - Fire Conflagration in Clarksville, TN
- April 27, 1865 - Memphis Ship Explosion
- April 27, 1930 - Airplane crashes into crowd (7 deaths)
- April 11, 1994 - Memphis Highrise Fire (2 firefighter deaths)
- April 11, 2007 - Johnny Cash's home burns
- April 7, 2012 - Fire Chief Kenny Fox killed while fighting a fire inside the Oak Hill Café in Decaturville. 2 other fire fighters were also injured. The fire was ruled an arson.
- April 15, 2012 - Mulch fire at Shamrock Organic Products in Knoxville requires 12 days of firefighting efforts and 24 million gallons of water to control
- April 12, 2014 - Sevierville cabin housing 22 catches fire. (2 deaths)
- April 12, 2015 - Fire at Saint George Church in Knoxville sends 1 firefighter to the hospital.
- April 7, 2017 - 5 die in manufactured home fire in Henry County.
- April 22, 2019 – 6 die in Alcoa home, including 2 children.

## **APRIL: Week 1 – Outdoor Burning**

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



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- BurnSafeTN.org
  - <http://www.burnsafetn.org/>
- Safe debris burning pamphlet from Tennessee Division of Forestry
  - <http://www.burnsafetn.org/pdfs/debris.pdf>
- Backyard debris burning safety
  - <https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/backyard-debris-burning>
- Fact sheet on responses to brush, grass, and forest fires
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Fact-sheets/brushgrassforestfactsheet.ashx>
- Brush, grass, and forest fires info
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/outdoor-fires/brush-grass-and-forest-fires>

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

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

- Careless debris burning is a primary cause of wildfires every year in Tennessee. Do your part to prevent wildfires and go to [www.burnsafetn.org](http://www.burnsafetn.org)

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Outdoor Burning*

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

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

**16.1.4** Permitted open fires, such as bonfires, yard waste fires, trash fires, or debris burning, need to be at least 50 feet from anything that can burn.

**16.1.7** Avoid burning on windy, dry days. Embers from open burning can ignite nearby structures or cause a wildfire.

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

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

## **APRIL: Week 2 – Hydrogen Cyanide & Toxic Gases**

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

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

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- "Smoke Inhalation" YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKvDKwvWDg>
- Hydrogen cyanide gas index from CDC:
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ershdb/emergencyresponsecard\\_29750038.html](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ershdb/emergencyresponsecard_29750038.html)
- Ammonia index from CDC:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ammonia/>
- Carbon monoxide index from CDC:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/co/default.htm>
- Carbon monoxide fact sheet
  - [https://www.cdc.gov/co/pdfs/flyer\\_danger.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/co/pdfs/flyer_danger.pdf)
- Carbon monoxide safety tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/COsafety.pdf>

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

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

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

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

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Smoke Alarms*

*Fire Deaths-Smoke Alarms Save Lives*

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

*Installation*

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

## **APRIL: Week 3 – Wildfire Preparedness**

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

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. Between 2015 and 2019 in Tennessee, fire departments responded to 55,512 outside fires, including 2,680 forest or wildland fires, which were responsible for over \$178,368 in total damage. That's an average of 536 forest or wildland fires every year.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Burnsafetn.org
  - [www.burnsafetn.org](http://www.burnsafetn.org)
- Wildland fire safety guide for the Tennessee homeowner
  - [http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise\\_docs/HomeownerSafetyGuide.pdf](http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise_docs/HomeownerSafetyGuide.pdf)
- “How Homes Are Lost To Wildfires”
  - [http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise\\_docs/HowHomesLostInfoSheet.pdf](http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise_docs/HowHomesLostInfoSheet.pdf)
- Is your home Firewise USA?
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzuHUAsq\\_Fs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzuHUAsq_Fs)
- Firewise USA series: why homes burn
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzuHUAsq\\_Fs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzuHUAsq_Fs)



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

- **Twitter**
  - Wildfires can be prevented and YOU can help. Please visit [burnsafetn.org](http://burnsafetn.org) to find out how!
  - Did you know firefighters respond to over 600 wildfires every year in Tennessee? Do what you can to help prevent these fires.
  - Want to make your community safer from wildfires? Consider becoming a Firewise USA community. Visit: [burnsafetn.org](http://burnsafetn.org) for more info.
- **Facebook**
  - Wildfires can be prevented and YOU can help. Avoid burning on dry, windy days, keep water and tools handy in case your fire spreads, and always have a burn permit. Please visit [burnsafetn.org](http://burnsafetn.org) to find out how!
  - Did you know fire departments respond to over 600 wildfires every year in Tennessee? Do what you can to help prevent these fires. Visit: <http://burnsafetn.org/>
  - Want to make your community safer from wildfires? Consider becoming a Firewise USA community. There are a few steps to becoming a Firewise USA community. Visit: <http://burnsafetn.org/> org for more info.

**Educator Tip:** If your community is primarily in a woodland setting as described above, consider making your community an official Firewise USA community. You can access the steps to becoming a Firewise USA community here: [http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise\\_docs/Firewise\\_Desk\\_Reference.PDF](http://www.burnsafetn.org/firewise_docs/Firewise_Desk_Reference.PDF)

As of 2019, there are currently ten recognized Firewise USA communities in Tennessee, spread throughout 7 different counties.

There are grants available to departments through the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry that are aimed at helping make communities safer from wildland fire. More information about these grants can be found at <http://www.burnsafetn.org/>.

USFA's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) offers resources to help fire departments and communities prepare for and respond to wildland fires. More information can be found here: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui/>.

### **NFPA Messaging:**

*Wildfires*

*Wildfire Prevention*

**17.1.2** Prevent ignitions by being careful with outdoor burning, including campfires, or avoiding any outdoor burning on high fire days. Comply with official burn bans.

*Protecting Homes from Wildfires*

**17.2.4** Remove anything that can burn from around your home, deck, porch, or patio out to a minimum of 5 feet. This includes mulch, dead leaves or pine needles, and material for construction projects.

*Community-wide Wildfire Safety*

**17.3.2** A wildfire may make it necessary for neighborhood residents to evacuate. Planning together with the local fire department and law enforcement authorities can save lives.

## **APRIL: Week 4 – Security Bars**

**Overview:** Security bars are a common method of household protection against burglary but are dangerous for residents when it comes to egress from a fire. If a fire breaks out in a home, security bars without quick-release devices block crucial fire exits. Between 2015 and 2019 in Tennessee, 12 residents died in home fires where security bars were a contributing factor to the fire death. Another 16 residents died where locked exits were a contributing factor. On average, around 5 people die every year in home fires where a security bar or locked exit prevented them from escaping the fire.

Security bars aren't the only method of household protection that can cause a fire hazard. Deadbolts that require a key to unlock from the inside can cost precious seconds when trying to escape a home fire. If you are using deadbolts in your home, make sure there is a quick-release knob instead of a key. In addition to security bars and deadbolts, windows that have been wedged, painted, or sealed shut in any other way can have deadly consequences. Always make sure your doors and windows can be easily unlocked and opened in case of a fire!

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Why are window security bars dangerous?
  - [http://www.mcgarryandmadsen.com/inspection/Blog/Entries/2014/3/22\\_Why\\_are\\_window\\_security\\_bars\\_dangerous.html](http://www.mcgarryandmadsen.com/inspection/Blog/Entries/2014/3/22_Why_are_window_security_bars_dangerous.html)
- Options for home security bars that will allow emergency exit
  - <http://wreg.com/2016/09/13/options-for-home-security-bars-that-will-allow-emergency-exit/>
- Home security features partially blamed for 9 deaths
  - <http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/story/33076705/home-security-features-partially-blamed-for-9-deaths>
- Example of quick-release device security bar, available online
  - <http://www.homedepot.com/p/Mr-Goodbar-Swing-Away-29-in-to-42-in-Adjustable-Width-6-Bar-Window-Guard-White-s202-E-29-42/301438138>
- Construction concerns: residential door locks
  - <https://www.fireengineering.com/2010/07/26/304803/cc-door-locks/#gref>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Security bars can be a fire safety hazard! Only install security bars with a quick-release device. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Save precious seconds in a home fire and make sure your windows and doors can be quickly unlocked and opened!
- **Facebook**
  - Security bars can be a fire safety hazard! Only install security bars with a quick-release device, as these hazards can impact your ability to escape a house fire. For more info, visit <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire-prevention>
  - Save precious seconds in a home fire and make sure your windows and doors can be quickly unlocked and opened!

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Fire Escape*

*Planning*

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

# MAY 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **National Building Safety Month**
- **National Electric Safety Month**
- **National Arson Awareness Week, May 3-9, 2021**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Gearing Up for Summer Safety"**

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

## **May 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Arson Awareness

Week 2 – Car & Recreational Vehicle Fire Safety

Week 3 – Building Safety/Fire Sprinklers

Week 4 – Hotel/Motel Safety

## **National Fire Service History**

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

## **Tennessee Specific History**

- May 24, 1807 - Tornadoes Hit East Tennessee
- May 19, 1902 - Coal Creek Mine Explosion
- May 27, 1983 - Benton Fireworks Disaster (Polk County)
- May 1-4, 2010 - Major Flood Disaster in Tennessee (Nashville Floods)
- May 27, 2011 - Fire at the Hoeganaes atomized steel and iron powder manufacturing plant in Gallatin kills 3. This explosion/fire was the third at this plant within 5 months; together, they killed 5 workers and injured 3 others.

## **MAY: Week 1 – Arson Awareness**

**Overview:** Arson can devastate a community, resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decline in property values. Arson is difficult to prosecute, but the effects are felt throughout the community: workers lose jobs, towns and cities lose tax dollars, burned buildings create blighted areas, and innocent people are injured or killed.

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- USFA Arson Awareness Week poster (2016)
  - [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/arson/2016\\_aaw\\_11x17\\_poster\\_press.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/arson/2016_aaw_11x17_poster_press.pdf)
- Arson motives (from USFA)
  - [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/wildfire\\_arson/arson\\_motives.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/wildfire_arson/arson_motives.html)
- Arson reward programs (USFA)
  - [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/wildfire\\_arson/reward\\_programs.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/wildfire_arson/reward_programs.html)
- Arson and intentional fires (NFPA)
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/arson>
- "Preventing Arson Together" PowerPoint
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/arson-and-intentional/nfpaarsonpresentation.ppt?as=1&iar=1&la=en>
- Intentional fires reports from NFPA
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/fire-causes/arson-and-juvenile-firesetting/intentional-fires>
- Intentional fires fact sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Fact-sheets/IntentionalFactSheet.ashx>

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

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

- Did you know more than 250K fires are set intentionally every year in the U.S.? Most of these are outside fires, but some are structure fires, which can prove the most fatal. Do everything you can to help prevent arson! Go here for more info: <http://bit.ly/24unyNC>

**Educator Tip:** Attend a city council or county commission meeting sometime in the weeks leading up to Arson Awareness Week and present the following PowerPoint from NFPA: <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/by-topic/arson-and-intentional/nfpaarsonpresentation.ppt?as=1&iar=1&la=en>

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

Help spread the word about preventing arson in your community with these awareness materials from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA): [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/arson\\_awareness.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/arson_awareness.html).

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

#### **Arson Awareness Week (May 2-8, 2021)**

By the Numbers: Intentionally Set Fires in Tennessee

- 2,199 fires were intentionally set on average each year between 2015 and 2019, representing 8.62% of all fires reported to fire departments.
- Intentionally set fires result in 4 deaths, 13 injuries, and \$11.6 million in direct property loss annually.
- The incidence of intentionally set fires peaks in the spring (March and April) and again in autumn (October and November).
- Matches (8.4%) and lighters (15.5%) are the leading heat sources of intentionally set fires.
- 63% of intentionally set fires occur in outside areas, including vehicles.
- 24% of intentionally set fires occur in structures.

## **MAY: Week 2 – Car & Recreational Vehicle Fire Safety**

**Overview:** Summer is beginning and that means that families will be travelling for vacation. Whether you are driving to a vacation destination or vacationing in a motorhome or camper trailer, there are fire hazards to avoid. Just as a fire escape plan is needed at home, you should know how to safely get out of your car or recreational vehicle in case of a fire.

If you are travelling in an RV or camper trailer, always make sure you have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Your vacation home needs just as much protection as your residence!

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- NFPA's car fire safety tip sheet
  - [https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Car\\_Fire\\_Safety.ashx](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Car_Fire_Safety.ashx)
- NFPA's RV fire safety tip sheet
  - [https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/RV\\_Safety\\_Tips.ashx](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/RV_Safety_Tips.ashx)
- Are you fire-safe on the road?
  - <https://www.roadtripamerica.com/rv/RV-Fire-Safety.htm>
- Fire escape planning grid
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/FPW/Educate/2019/FPW19Grid.ashx>
- RV safety 101
  - <https://www.nps.gov/articles/p52-rv-fire-safety-101.htm>
- Car fire safety
  - <https://blog.americansafetycouncil.com/car-fire-safety-tips-2/>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Be fire-safe on the road! Make sure your RV and car are in tip top shape. <https://bit.ly/3jXLwhr>
  - RVs and campers need smoke alarms too! Make sure yours are working before you set off on your adventure. <https://bit.ly/3jXLwhr>
  - RVs and campers can trap dangerous gases inside. Always have a working carbon monoxide detector present! <https://bit.ly/3jXLwhr>
  - If your RV or car is on fire, safely pull over, turn off the engine, and get out! <https://bit.ly/3hb9Z15>
- **Facebook**
  - Be fire-safe on the road! Make sure your RV and car are in working order before you hit the open road. <https://bit.ly/3hb9Z15>
  - RVs and campers need smoke alarms too! Make sure you have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms when you set off on your adventure. <https://bit.ly/3jXLwhr>
  - The stove is the most common cause of RV and camper fires. Never leave your cooking unattended and make sure you have working smoke alarms! <https://bit.ly/3jXLwhr>
  - If your RV or car is on fire, safely pull over, turn off the engine, and get out! <https://bit.ly/3hb9Z15>

**Educator Tip:** Creating a checklist is a fun and easy way to make sure vehicles are ready for the road. Adults sometimes need reminders and children will love to be involved in planning road trips and camping vacations.

The National Park Service outlines common recreational vehicle fire causes and lists ways to make sure your vehicle is safe. For more information, visit <https://www.nps.gov/articles/p52-rv-fire-safety-101.htm>.

**NFPA Messaging:**

What to do if your car is on fire:

- Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, be sure to use your signal as you make your way to a safe location off the road such as the breakdown lane or rest stop.
- Once you have stopped, TURN OFF the engine.
- GET everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car for anything.
- MOVE everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- CALL 911.

RV Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms. Make sure they work.
- Stay in the kitchen while you cook. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.
- Refrigerators, furnaces, ovens and stovetops use propane. Check them for leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- Have your propane system inspected to make sure it still works properly.
- Know two ways out. Make sure windows open easily. Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan
- Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping.
- Have your vehicle serviced by a qualified mechanic.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board. Only adults who know how to operate it should use it. Only use it if the fire is small and can be contained.

## **MAY: Week 3 – Building Safety/Fire Sprinklers**

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

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

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

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



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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- International Code Council
  - <https://www.iccsafe.org/>
- “Who Needs Building Codes?” pamphlet
  - <https://codes.iccsafe.org/what-are-building-codes>
- Consumer safety tips for your home
  - <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month/safety-toolkit/>
- ICC Media videos (YouTube)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/user/ICCMEDIA/videos>

- Fire and sprinkler side-by-side burn demo
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlx1SMmLylc>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative, free downloads
  - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools/free-downloads.aspx>
- NFPA safety tips – home fire sprinklers
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g73JQBff0vE>
- Free fire sprinkler education materials
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/free-fire-sprinkler-education-materials/>
- Fire sprinkler advocate takes on anti-sprinkler naysayer
  - <https://community.nfpa.org/community/home-fire-sprinkler-initiative/blog/2019/09/20/fire-sprinkler-advocate-takes-on-anti-sprinkler-naysayer>

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

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





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

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Smoke Alarms*

*General Tips*

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

*Installation*

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

## **MAY: Week 4 – Hotel/Motel Safety**

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- NFPA – hotel & motel safety
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/HotelMotelSafety.ashx?la=en>
- NFPA safety tips – hotel & motel safety
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHziKihkezv>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Choose a hotel or motel that is protected by both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system! #HotelSafety @TNCommerceInsur
  - Hotel safety 101: always take the time to find all available exits when you check in @TNCommerceInsur
  - If an alarm sounds, leave immediately, closing all doors behind you. #HotelSafety @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
  - Your hotel should be protected by smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system!
  - Always find all available exits when you check in to a hotel. Make sure you know where to go if there is a fire!

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

#### *Hotels/Motels*

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

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

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

# JUNE 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **Outdoor summer activities**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Fire Safety and the Great Outdoors"**

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

## **June 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Marina/Boating Electrical Safety

Week 2 – Outdoor Grilling Safety

Week 3 – Campfire Safety

Week 4 – Fireworks Safety

## **National Fire Service History**

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

## **Tennessee Specific History**

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

## **JUNE: Week 1 – Marina/Boating Electrical Safety**

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- NFPA & ESFI electrical safety resources
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Electrical-safety-around-water>
- Marina Electrical Safety (AMI)
  - <http://www.pcmarinesurveys.com/Marina%20Electrical%20Safety.pdf>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Never swim near a boat, marina, or launching ramp. Electrical current could put you at risk of electric shock drowning (ESD) @NFPA
  - To retrieve a person in the water: reach, throw, and row ... but don't go. Electric shock drowning is real. @NFPA @TNCommercelnsur
  - Talk to marina owners or operators about the danger of ESD. Ask your marina operator to prohibit swimming at their facility, post signs.
- **Facebook**
  - Do you know about ESD (electric shock drowning)? If you own or use a marina, you should. Go here for more info: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/BoatingSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>
  - Never swim near a boat, marina, or launching ramp. Residual current could flow into the water from the boat, or the marina's wiring, potentially putting anyone in the water at risk of ESD (electric shock drowning). Go here for more info: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/BoatingSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>
  - To retrieve a person in the water: reach, throw, and row... but don't go. Electric shock drowning (ESD) is real. Go here for more info: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/BoatingSafetyTips.ashx?la=en>

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

#### **IN GENERAL**

- To retrieve a person in the water, reach, throw, and row, but don't go.
- Tell others about ESD. Most people have never heard of it and are unaware of the danger.
- Make sure your children understand the importance of not swimming anywhere there could be electricity. Don't let them roughhouse on docks. Tell them what to do if they feel a tingling or shock in the water (see below).
- ESD victims are good candidates for successful Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Learn to perform CPR and maintain your training.

## **IN MARINAS**

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

## **IF YOU HAVE A BOAT**

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

## **IF YOU HAVE A PRIVATE DOCK**

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

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

- DO NOT follow your instinct to swim toward the dock!

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

#### **IF YOU HAVE TO RESCUE AN ESD VICTIM**

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

## **JUNE: Week 2 – Outdoor Grilling**

**Overview:** Summertime means outdoor grilling time for Tennessee residents. It is also the peak season for grilling fires. The SFMO urges outdoor cooks to keep fire safety in mind as they start up the grill this summer. You should never use a grill on a deck, porch, enclosed patio, or balcony. Grills should be at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn and should not be placed under low-hanging branches. Grilling too close to your home is a good way to ruin a barbecue!

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- NFPA – grilling safety
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Grilling>
- Grilling safety tips
  - [http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/grilling\\_safety\\_tips.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/grilling_safety_tips.pdf)
- Grilling statistics infographic
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/~//media/Images/Public-Education/By-topic/Grilling/GrillingInfographicBIG2019.jpg>
- Grilling safety tips YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65RCHLNiKa8>
- ESPN's Hannah Storm talks about surviving a grilling accident
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=Rs9hq3IVrnE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=Rs9hq3IVrnE)

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

- **Twitter**
  - July is the peak month for grilling fires, followed by May, June & August. Stay safe: <http://ow.ly/HyUG300fseO> #FireFacts
  - Read all of NFPA's grilling safety tips & download the free safety tip sheet: <http://ow.ly/lrAl300fszr>
- **Facebook**
  - Share this infographic on grilling stats from @NFPA to inform your friends/family/neighbors: <http://ow.ly/lrAl300fszr>
  - When the warmer weather hits, there's nothing better than the smell of food on the grill. 3 out of 5 households own a gas grill, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there's an increased risk of home fires. Do you know the most important grilling safety tips? If no, go here to learn: <http://ow.ly/lrAl300fszr>
  - Read all of NFPA's grilling safety tips & download the free safety tip sheet: <http://ow.ly/lrAl300fszr>
  - Safety tip: grills should be placed well away from home/deck railings & out from under eaves & branches <http://ow.ly/kMfq300fumf>

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

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Cooking*

*Barbecue Grills*

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

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

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

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

**8.9.7** Never leave a barbecue grill unattended.

*Propane Grills*

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

## **JUNE: Week 3 – Campfire Safety**

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

Just like campfires, backyard fire pits should be properly extinguished. If possible, you should let all of the wood burn to ash and then cover the embers in water. Make sure all embers are extinguished and the fire pit is completely cool to the touch.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- “Campfire Safety” from National Interagency Fire Center
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAuhoT-K5gl>
- “Campfire Safety with the H.E.A.T. Team” YouTube video (for kids)
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY\\_1aBQZ2JM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY_1aBQZ2JM)
- Campfire safety tip sheet from NFPA
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/campingfiresafety.pdf>
- Campfire safety website (Smokey Bear)
  - <https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/campfire-safety>
- Safety tips for campfires (from Indiana.gov)
  - [http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Campfire\\_Safety2.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Campfire_Safety2.pdf)

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

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

**Educator Tip:** Add a campfire safety demonstration to your routine whenever you perform a public fire safety demo. Many people forget that fire safety is as important outside as it is inside. Emphasize the important points in NFPA's campfire safety tips from above as well as the messages below.

**NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

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

How to Pick Your Spot

- DO NOT build a fire at a site in hazardous, dry conditions. DO NOT build a fire if the campground, area, or event rules prohibit campfires.
- FIND OUT if the campground has an existing fire ring or fire pit.
- If there is not an existing fire pit, and pits are allowed, look for a site that is at least 15 feet away from tent walls, shrubs, trees or other flammable objects. Also beware of low-hanging branches overhead.

Extinguishing Your Campfire

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

## **JUNE: Week 4 – Fireworks Safety**

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

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more than twice the number of fires is reported on Independence Day than on any other day of the year in the United States. 2 out of 5 of these fires are caused by fireworks. According to the Tennessee Fire Incident Reporting System, from 2015-2019, Tennessee fire departments responded to 405 fires caused by fireworks. Those fires caused over \$1.8 million in property damage.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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

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

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

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal's Office. This video shows the damage that fireworks could cause a person standing too close to fireworks:

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

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

#### *Follow the Law:*

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

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

#### *Think Safety:*

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

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

# JULY 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Events

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Youth Fire Safety"**

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

## **July 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Escape Planning/"Close The Door!"

Week 2 – Smoke Alarm Tips

Week 3 – Stop, Drop, Cover & Roll

Week 4 – Matches & Lighters

## **National Fire Service History**

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

## **Tennessee Specific History**

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

## **JULY: Week 1 – Escape Planning/“Close The Door!”**

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

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

In 2019, the SFMO announced a partnership with Knox Box to help spread the “Close The Door!” message throughout the state. This partnership will be a comprehensive campaign involving local fire departments aimed at educating local residents about the importance of doors in fire prevention.

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



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

- Official “Close The Door!” website:
  - <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>
- “Close The Door!” informational flyer
  - [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/posts/Close\\_the\\_Door\\_Flyers.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Close_the_Door_Flyers.pdf)
- Escape planning grid (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- Fire safety – have two ways out
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9KSFRq4rXA>

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

- Customizable press release
  - [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/posts/Fire\\_Customizable\\_Press\\_Release.docx](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Fire_Customizable_Press_Release.docx)
- Twitter:
  - Did you know a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting equipment? Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
  - Simply closing the door behind you when escaping a fire can be the best decision you make. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
  - Fire doors prevent spread of smoke/flames in apartments and other buildings. Never disable a fire door. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN

- Fire moves fast. A closed door may slow a fire and provide precious seconds needed for escape. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E> #closethedoorTN
- Involve children in making an escape plan and practice it monthly. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- Home escape plans save lives! Learn how to develop one with all members of your household. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- Know two ways out of every room in your home! Hint: It's usually a door and a window. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
- Facebook:
  - Did you know that a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and life-saving equipment in a home? It can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
  - Getting out of a burning building and calling 911 are crucial to survival during a fire, but closing doors during an escape can potentially limit the structural damage a fire can cause and possibly save lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
  - Keep fire doors closed. These specialized doors are used to compartmentalize a building and prevent the spread of smoke and flames. Never wedge, disable, or prop open fire doors in apartments or other buildings. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
  - Three simple words may save lives during a fire: "Close the door!" A closed door can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <https://bit.ly/2x3WU5E>
  - Everyone should know two ways out of every room. If there is a fire, you won't have much time to react and get out of the house, so make sure you plan your escape ahead of time with everyone in the home. For more tips, check out NFPA's basic fire escape planning: <https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Smoke Alarms*

*Installation*

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

*People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

**1.4.1** Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**1.4.2.1** When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.

## *Home Fire Escape*

### *Planning*

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

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

### *Practicing the Home Fire Escape Drill*

**4.2.4** Close doors behind you as you leave.

## JULY: Week 2 – Smoke Alarm Tips

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

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



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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Smoke alarm installation guide
  - [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/posts/Get\\_Alarmed\\_Smoke\\_Alarm\\_Installation\\_Guide\\_2016.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/Get_Alarmed_Smoke_Alarm_Installation_Guide_2016.pdf)
- How to install a smoke alarm
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM2Jntyc-hc&index=24&list=PLWgyob0pqnhxRrSSy\\_vjczetQ9Aq3OXXg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM2Jntyc-hc&index=24&list=PLWgyob0pqnhxRrSSy_vjczetQ9Aq3OXXg)
- Infographic on **ionization** smoke alarms
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms/Ionization-smoke-alarm-chart.ashx>
- Infographic on **photoelectric** smoke alarms
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms/Photoelectric-smoke-alarm-chart.ashx>
- Ionization vs. photoelectric smoke alarms
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms/ionization-vs-photoelectric>
- How to clean smoke alarms
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y4R6fWcteM>
- Advantages of interconnected smoke alarms
  - <http://www.brkelectronics.com/BRK%20images/OneLink%20FAQ's.pdf>

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

- **Twitter**

- Know the difference! Ionization alarms -> flaming fires, photoelectric alarms -> smoldering fires. More info: <http://bit.ly/2wqanTD>
- Do you know where you should install smoke alarms? Go here to find out: <http://bit.ly/2aA2COY>
- Ionization alarms respond best to flaming fires. Here's how they work: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms/Ionization-smoke-alarm-chart.ashx>
- Photoelectric alarms respond best to slow, smoldering fires. Here's how they work: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms/Photoelectric-smoke-alarm-chart.ashx>

- **Facebook**

- Ionization alarms respond best to flaming fires. Here's how they work: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms/Ionization-smoke-alarm-chart.ashx>
- Photoelectric alarms respond best to slow, smoldering fires. Here's how they work: <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Smoke-alarms/Photoelectric-smoke-alarm-chart.ashx>
- Interconnected smoke alarms are the best way to protect your entire home. For more information, go here: <http://www.brkelectronics.com/BRK%20images/OneLink%20FAQ's.pdf>
- The SFMO offers bed shaker alarms for the hard of hearing and deaf population. For more info, and to request a free smoke alarm, go to [www.tn.gov/fire](http://www.tn.gov/fire)

**Educator Tip:** Conduct a district-wide smoke alarm canvass with your department. The SFMO can help you with this project (go here to request help with a canvass: [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/forms/Canvass\\_Request\\_For\\_m\\_2017.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/forms/Canvass_Request_For_m_2017.pdf) )

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

### **NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Smoke Alarms*

*Installation*

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

*People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

**1.4.1** Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**1.4.2.1** When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard

smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.

*Smoke Alarm Replacement*

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

## **JULY: Week 3 – Stop, Drop, and Roll**

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

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

- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- If you cannot “stop, drop, and roll”, keep a blanket or towel nearby to help you or others smother flames. Cover the person with a blanket to smother the fire.
- If you use a wheelchair, scooter, or other device and are able to get to the floor, lock the device first to stay in place before getting on the floor to roll until the flames are out.
- Use cool water to treat any resulting burns immediately for 3-5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies. Get medical help right away by calling 911 or the fire department.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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

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

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

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

The *Learn Not To Burn* program is a great tool for delivering contextually appropriate fire safety techniques to children. In the SDR section of this program, the curriculum is explicit about when and when not to use this technique. If you have not implemented *Learn Not To Burn* in your curriculum, here is a great place to start:

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

**NFPA Messaging:**

*If You Are on Fire*

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

## **JULY: Week 4 – Matches & Lighters**

**Overview:** Between 2015 and 2019, Tennessee fire departments responded to 243 structure fires in which the primary heat source was a match or lighter. These fires caused over \$5 million in total damage. While most of these incidents are related to other common accidental house fire causes (smoking, cooking, etc.), occasionally the cause is ruled to be children playing with a heat source.

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

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Young fire setters (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters>
- Play Safe! Be Safe!
  - [www.playsafebesafe.com](http://www.playsafebesafe.com)
- Children & fire tip sheet (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/childrenandfiresafetytips.pdf>
- Young fire setters YouTube Video (NFPA)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqrlUYTKYq8>
- Learn Not To Burn program
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/learn-not-to-burn>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Talk to your kids about not playing with matches and lighters. It may save a life! @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Keep your home fire free. Always store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight. #FireSafeTN
  - A child with an interest in fire can lead to fire starting. Talk to your kids about fire safety! @TNCommerceInsure #FireSafeTN
- **Facebook**
  - Between 2015 and 2019, Tennessee fire departments responded to 243 structure fires in which the primary heat source was a match or lighter. These fires caused over \$5 million in total damage. While most of these incidents are related to other common accidental house fire causes (smoking, cooking, etc.), occasionally the cause is ruled to be children playing with a heat source. To learn more about talking to your kids about fire safety and not playing with matches/lighters, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters>

- Children experience fire interest. They may ask questions such as how hot is fire or show an interest in fire through playing with fire trucks or cooking on a play stove. This is healthy, and it is time to begin educating about fire. For more information about child fire safety, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/young-firesetters>

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

#### *Burns*

#### *Preventing Scalds and Burns in the Kitchen*

**9.1.1** Teach children that hot things burn.

#### *Smoking*

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

#### Curious kids set fires

- Children 14 and under make up 10-15% of all fire deaths.
- 52% of all child fire deaths involve those under five. These children are usually unable to escape from a fire independently.
- At home, children often play with fire in bedrooms, in closets and under beds to avoid detection. These locations just so happen to contain a lot of flammable materials.
- Too often, child fire-setters are not given proper guidance and supervision by parents and teachers. Consequently, they repeat their fire-setting behavior.

# AUGUST 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **Back to School!**

## **MONTHLY THEME: “Eliminate Hazards in Living Spaces”**

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

## **August 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Fire Safety for Older Adults

Week 2 – Hoarding

Week 3 – Select Fire-Safe Housing for College Students

Week 4 – Fire Safety for People with Disabilities

## **National Fire Service History**

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

## **Tennessee Specific History**

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

## **AUGUST: Week 1 – Fire Safety for Older Adults**

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Fire safety outreach materials for older adults
  - [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/older\\_adults.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/older_adults.html)
- “Older adult fire safety” PSA
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=-JN8p-XX9xg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=-JN8p-XX9xg)
- “Fire Safety for Older Adults”
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=3xv8bdKhBno](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=3xv8bdKhBno)
- Fire safety checklist for older adults
  - [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa\\_221.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf)
- Older adults fire safety (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/older-adults>
- *Remembering When* Program (NFPA)
  - <http://catalog.nfpa.org/Remembering-When8482-A-Fire-and-Fall-Prevention-Program-for-Older-Adults-Color-Printout-P1462.aspx?cid=A292>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Adults over 65 are twice as likely to be killed or injured in a house fire. Safety tips to know: <http://bit.ly/2ytVEqr> @TNCommercelnsur
  - Older adults are at an increased risk for home fire injury or death. Know these safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2ytVEqr> @TNCommercelnsur
  - Unattended cooking and careless smoking are common fire hazards for older adults. See more here: <http://bit.ly/2ytVEqr> @TNCommercelnsur
- **Facebook**
  - Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires in America. Many older adults also experience burn-related injuries during cooking. Prevent fires and burns by being watchful and alert when you cook. For more safety tips for older adults, go to: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa\\_221.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf)
  - Older adults (age 65 and older) are more than twice as likely to die in fires than the nation’s population as a whole. Individuals aged 85 or older are more than four times as likely to die in a fire than the general population. Older adults have a higher risk of injury from fires. For some important fire safety tips related to older adults, go to: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa\\_221.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf)



- Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths for adults 65 and over. It is also the third leading cause of fire injuries for older adults. For some important fire safety tips related to older adults, go to: [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa\\_221.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_221.pdf)
- The SFMO offers bed shaker alarms for the hard of hearing and deaf population. For more info, and to request a free smoke alarm, go to [www.tn.gov/fire](http://www.tn.gov/fire)

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

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

*Home Smoke Alarms*

*People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*

**1.4.1** Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**1.4.2.1** When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.

*Safety tips*

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

- **Keep it low:** If you don't live in an apartment building, consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escape easier. Make sure that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping room and outside any sleeping areas. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency. When looking for an apartment or high-rise home, look for one with an automatic sprinkler system. Sprinklers can extinguish a home fire in less time that it takes for the fire department to arrive.
- **Sound the alarm:** The majority of fatal fires occur when people are sleeping. Because smoke can put you into a deeper sleep rather than waking you, it's important to have a mechanical early warning of a fire to ensure that you wake up. If anyone in your household is deaf or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.
- **Do the drill:** Conduct your own, or participate in, regular fire drills to make sure you know what to do in the event of a home fire. If you or someone you live with cannot escape alone, designate a member of the household to assist and decide on backups in case the designee isn't home. Fire

drills are also a good opportunity to make sure that everyone is able to hear and respond to smoke alarms.

- **Open up:** Make sure that you are able to open all doors and windows in your home. Locks and pins should open easily from inside. (Some apartment and high-rise buildings have windows designed not to open.) If you have security bars on doors or windows, they should have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened easily. These devices won't compromise your safety, but they will enable you to open the window from inside in the event of a fire. Check to be sure that windows haven't been sealed shut with paint or nailed shut. If they have, arrange for someone to break the seals all around your home or remove the nails.
- **Stay connected:** Keep a cell phone nearby, along with emergency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke.

## **AUGUST: Week 2 – Hoarding**

**Overview:** Many fire departments are experiencing serious fires, injuries, and deaths as the result of compulsive hoarding behavior. The excessive accumulation of materials in homes poses a significant threat to firefighters fighting fires and responding to other emergencies in these homes and to residents and neighbors. Hoarding can hinder you from getting out of a burning home and can hinder firefighters from getting in. Studies suggest that 3-5% of the population are compulsive hoarders.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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

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

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

as new items are brought into the home. For more info, go to <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/hoarding-and-fire-safety>

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

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

#### *What is hoarding?*

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

#### *Why do people become hoarders?*

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

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

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

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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

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

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

more info, go to <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/property-type-and-vehicles/campus-and-dorm-fires>

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

**NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

*College and University Housing*

*On- and Off-Campus Housing*

**6.1.1** Look for housing with fire sprinklers when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing. This is the best fire protection.

**6.1.3** Learn your building's evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they are the real thing.

**6.1.7** When the fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.

## **AUGUST: Week 4 – Fire Safety for People with Disabilities**

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

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Fire safety for people with disabilities (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities>
- Home safety for people with disabilities tip sheet
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~//media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/disabilitysafetytips.pdf>
- Safety videos in ASL (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities/videos-in-american-sign-language>
- Electrical safety messages in ASL (YouTube)
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x\\_7RFiv7\\_lw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_7RFiv7_lw)
- Educational materials for people with disabilities
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities/educational-materials>
- Fire safety outreach materials for people with disabilities
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities/educational-materials>

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

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

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

### **NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

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

# SEPTEMBER 2021

## **EVENTS:**

- **Firefighter Safety Month**
- **National Campus Safety Month**
- **Deaf Awareness Month**
- **Tennessee Fire Loss Symposium**
- **Tennessee Carbon Monoxide Awareness Day, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

## **MONTHLY THEME: "Fire Safety in Public Spaces"**

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

## **September 2021 Topics**

Week 1 – Fire Safety in Public Buildings

Week 2 – Smoking

Week 3 – Carbon Monoxide Safety

Week 4 – Call 911 for Emergencies

## **Tennessee Fire Loss Symposium**

### **National Fire Service History**

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

### **Tennessee Specific History**

- September 24, 1904 - New Market, Tennessee Train Wreck
- September 20, 1965 - Tennessee Fairgrounds Fire
- September 25, 2003 - Nursing Home Fire kills 15 at NHC Nursing Home, Nashville (no sprinklers; lack of smoke alarms in residents' rooms)
- September 28, 2010 – Home fire kills 5 in Atoka
- September 18, 2011– 5 people lose their lives in Clarksville when carbon monoxide fumes from a generator seep into their rented RV.
- September 12, 2016 – Ten people die in a home fire in Memphis.
- September 25, 2019 – Industrial fire in Dandridge results in \$20 million loss.

## **SEPTEMBER: Week 1 – Fire Safety in Public Buildings**

**Overview:** It's important to be aware of your surroundings in public spaces. You should always look for the closest exit and make sure you have a safe path out in case of a fire.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- NFPA's public spaces fire safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/PublicSafetyOccupanciesSafetyTips.ashx>
- Staying safe from fire in public spaces
  - <https://blog.cinfin.com/2016/12/20/fire-prevention-staying-safe-public-places/>

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

- **Twitter**
  - Look around. Know where to go in case of a fire! <https://bit.ly/2R6KSSu>
  - Paying attention can save your life! Check out these public spaces fire safety tips: <https://bit.ly/2R6KSSu>
- **Facebook**
  - Be aware of your surroundings in public spaces. When you enter a building, make sure you know how to get out in case of a fire.
  - Use the stairs in case of a fire. Elevators in public buildings are not safe to use if there is a fire. When in doubt, follow the lighted exit signs!

**Educator Tip:** Public buildings will have lighted exit signs and some may even have a map that shows all of the exits in the building. It is important to have a fire escape plan for each public building you go into, just like in a home.

### **NFPA Messaging:**

When You Enter

- Take a good look. Locate exits immediately when you enter a building; you should look for all available exits. Some exits may be in front and some behind you. Be prepared to use your closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit.
- Check for clear exit paths. Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths are blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if it is not immediately addressed. Call the local fire marshal to register a complaint.
- Do you feel safe? Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately

## **SEPTEMBER: Week 2 – Smoking**

**Overview:** Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires in Tennessee. If you smoke in your home, you put your entire household at greater risk of fire. Between 2015 and 2019, fire departments responded to 651 structure fires started by cigarettes, resulting in over \$15 million worth of property damage. In addition, 80 Tennesseans died in smoking related home fires between 2015 and 2019, almost 16 per year.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Smoking (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking>
- Smoking & home fire safety tip sheet (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~/-/media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/smokingsafety.pdf>
- Smoking material safety tips
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmEN\\_mLbQAk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmEN_mLbQAk)
- Fact sheet on smoking materials
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/Fact-sheets/smokingfactsheet.ashx?la=en>
- Smoking fire safety outreach materials
  - <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/smoking.html>
- Smoking and fire safety (USFA)
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKxEGq\\_u6cM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKxEGq_u6cM)

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

- **Twitter**
  - Don't smoke with medical oxygen present! There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Between 2014-2018, 72 Tennesseans died in house fires started by cigarettes. Go here for more info: <http://bit.ly/2k7wQCB>
  - Tennessee fire departments responded to 662 house fires started by cigarettes between 2014 and 2018. Go here for safety tips: <http://bit.ly/2k7wQCB>
- **Facebook**
  - The place where we feel safest is where most smoking material related structure fires, deaths, and injuries occur. Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths. Smoking material fires are preventable. For smoking safety tips, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking>
  - Never smoke and never allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter. For more safety tips, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking>

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

Sign up to participate in the SFMO's *Get Alarmed, TN* program. This state-wide fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program started in 2012 and to date has distributed over 226,000 smoke alarms to participating fire departments.

To get started, go to <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/get-alarmed-tn.html>, look under "Organization Administrators Toolbox" for information on how to get your department on board.

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Smoking*

**11.1.2** If you smoke, smoke outside.

**11.1.3** Never smoke in bed.

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

## **SEPTEMBER: Week 3 – Carbon Monoxide Safety**

**Overview:** As Tennesseans pack up and head out to their favorite campsites, the SFMO urges campers to be aware of carbon monoxide dangers in and around tents and RVs.

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

"Carbon monoxide, often referred to as the silent killer, is especially dangerous because it is odorless, colorless, and tasteless," said Assistant Commissioner of Fire Prevention Gary Farley. "We urge Tennesseans to take precautions when using fuel-burning equipment like generators, stoves, and fireplaces to keep their families safe from the devastating consequences of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning."

In September of 2011, 5 campers died in their sleep in Clarksville, Tennessee when fumes from a generator seeped into their rented RV. The RV's carbon monoxide detector, which could have prevented the deaths, was found to have no batteries.

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

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include headache, nausea and drowsiness. Extremely high levels of poisoning can be fatal, causing death within minutes. Anyone who suspects they are suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning should immediately move to a fresh air location and call 911 or the fire department.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

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



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

- **Twitter**

- You can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO over a short period of time <http://bit.ly/2fmDHla>
- Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless killer. For tips on how to protect your home, go here: <http://bit.ly/2fmDHla>

- **Facebook**

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

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

Clarksville resident Christine Watson is raising awareness of carbon monoxide poisoning which claimed the lives of her daughter and son-in-law (Jon and Kathryn Watson Over) as well as their 3 friends (Jim Wall, Tim Stone and Allison Bagwell-Wyatt). On Sept. 18, 2011, those 5 people lost their lives when carbon monoxide fumes from a generator seeped into their rented RV at the Clarksville Speedway. The RV's carbon monoxide detector, which could have prevented the deaths, was later discovered to have no batteries.

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

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas created when fuels (such as kerosene, gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Carbon monoxide can result from camping equipment, such as barbecue grills, portable generators or other fuel-powered devices.

"I sincerely thank Christine Watson for her tireless efforts to help Tennesseans learn the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning and how tragedy can be prevented," said Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance Assistant Commissioner Gary Farley. "Bringing attention to this issue will undoubtedly help prevent future tragedies from occurring."

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Carbon Monoxide*

*Inside the Home*

**3.6.2** Always use barbecue grills outside, away from all doors, windows, vents, and other building openings. Never use grills inside the home or the garage, even if the doors are open.

### *Motor Vehicles*

**3.5.2** Never run a motor vehicle or other fueled engine or motor in a garage, even if the garage doors are open. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.

### *Portable Generators*

**3.7.1** Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 5 feet (1.5 meters) away from all doors, windows, and vent openings.

**3.7.2** Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.

### *If Your Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Sounds*

**3.8.1** Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors. Make sure everyone is accounted for.

## **SEPTEMBER: Week 4 – Call 911 For Emergencies**

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

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

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

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- 911.gov
  - <https://www.911.gov/>
- Benefits of Next Generation 911 (YouTube)
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V76CawHj\\_So](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V76CawHj_So)
- Next Gen 911 promo video (from TDCI)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKo8jLk2q7w>
- National Emergency Number Association
  - <http://www.nena.org/>

**Media Tools:** *Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote proper use of 911:*

- **Twitter**
  - 911 is for emergencies only! Make sure you are using this important service appropriately. Go here for more: <https://www.911.gov>
  - When you call 911, have these 4 things: location, number, nature of emergency, and details. For more, go here: <https://www.911.gov>
- **Facebook**
  - In an emergency, dial 911 or your local emergency number immediately. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance. Examples include, a fire, a crime, especially if in progress, a car crash, especially if someone is injured, and a medical emergency, especially symptoms that require immediate medical attention. For more info, go to <https://www.911.gov/needtocallortext911.html>
  - When you call 911, be prepared to answer the call-taker's questions, which may include: the location of the emergency, including the street address; the phone number you are calling from; the nature of the emergency; details about the emergency, such as a physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, a description of any fire that may be burning, or a description of injuries or symptoms being experienced by a person having a medical emergency. For more info, go here: <https://www.911.gov/needtocallortext911.html>

**Educator Tip:** Make sure all residents in your response area know the appropriate number, in addition to 911, to call in case of an emergency. If you think your residents may not be aware of the correct number to call, talk to your local newspaper or radio about putting out a brief public service announcement that explains the number to call and when to call it.

**NFPA/SFMO Messaging:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

### ***Get Alarmed, TN*** **Smoke Alarm Program**

The Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is on a mission to prevent home fire deaths in Tennessee! Using grant funds awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the SFMO first purchased 20,000 smoke alarms in November 2012 to be distributed to fire departments and installed in at-risk homes across the state as part of their *Get Alarmed, TN* program. The response to this effort was so great that the SFMO continued to fund the program. Since the program's inception, over 222,000 smoke alarms have been distributed across Tennessee.

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

As of the date of this publication, the *Get Alarmed, TN* program has been credited with saving the lives of 307 Tennesseans; demonstrating that working smoke alarms can and will save lives. The SFMO wants all Tennesseans to have these vital devices in their homes.

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

If your department is interested in participating in the *Get Alarmed, TN* program, please contact Alexandra Fontana with the SFMO at 615-289-9364 or [Alexandra.Fontana@tn.gov](mailto:Alexandra.Fontana@tn.gov). Members of the public interested in smoke alarm installations should first contact their local fire department, as many of these departments may already have smoke alarms available through this program.

# Summary of Tennessee Law Regarding Smoke Alarms and Rental Property

## ***Apartments:***

### **Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-120-112**

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

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

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

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

## ***1 and 2 Family Rental Units:***

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

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

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

# Using NFIRS/TFIRS to Document Fireworks-Related Incidents

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

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

## **2. Fire Module:**

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

## **2. Wildland Fire Module:**

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

## **3. Arson Module:**

- Incendiary Devices:
  - 16 Pyrotechnic Material
  - 17 Explosive Material
  
- Age and Gender – Very important to document age and gender.

## **4. EMS Module:**

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

## Public Education Resource Links

- **State Fire Marshal's Office (SMFO) website:** <http://www.tn.gov/fire/>
  - See the latest state fire death count  
<https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/fire-fatalities-and-mortality-rate-in-tn.html>
  - Access the Monthly Education Plan
  - See results of statewide contests
  - Get info on *Get Alarmed, TN*: <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/get-alarmed-tn.html>
  - Get contact info for all of the divisions of the SFMO
  - Check out the SFMO Facebook page & Twitter account:  
<http://www.facebook.com/TennesseeCommerceAndInsurance>  
<https://twitter.com/TNCommerceInsur>
  - Sign up for FIREcomm, the official communications portal for the SFMO. Be sure to mark the public education section so that you can receive a regular spotlight on fire prevention, as well as weekly press releases you can share with your local media:  
<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1818195/1775525/>
- **U.S. Fire Administration's website:** <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>
  - Access national statistics and fire safety tips
  - Get a limited number of free publications (brochures, coloring books, etc.) through the USFA once a year. You just need to create a free account. (Hint: Fire departments with multiple stations can create accounts for each station in order to receive more publications. Just be sure that each account has a different contact person name & address.) <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/publications/>
  - Get stock photos for presentations:  
[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/working\\_with\\_the\\_media/digital\\_assets/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/working_with_the_media/digital_assets/)
  - FEMA Exchange – a searchable library of public education materials shared by organizations: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/library/collections/exchange.html>
  - Video PSAs: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL69D1444B992E92E8>
  - Join the “Fire Is Everyone’s Fight” Initiative:  
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/fief/>
- **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website:** <http://nfpa.org>
  - Access national statistics and fire safety tips
  - Printable safety tip sheets on multiple topics: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/safety-tip-sheets>
  - Videos/PSAs: <http://www.nfpa.org/press-room/public-service-announcements>

- Free access to many of their education programs including “Remembering When” for older adults and “Learn Not to Burn” for children: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-public-educators/education-programs>
- **Other Programs/Events/Conferences**
  - **Statewide fire prevention poster contest:**  
<https://www.tn.gov/commerce/fire/prevention-education-and-outreach/poster-contest.html>
    - Begins in October. Letters about the contest are mailed to the chiefs each year. Fire departments encourage students to create posters pertaining to the Fire Prevention Week theme. Entries are judged locally and then winners are submitted to the SFMO for state judging. Winners of the state contest receive a certificate signed by the Governor and \$50. They are also honored at an awards event in February.
  - **TN Excellence in Community Risk Reduction:**
    - The SFMO recognizes an individual that has shown outstanding dedication to community risk reduction and been an innovator and leader within their department, their community, or the State of Tennessee. Contact the SFMO at 615-574-0240 for more information.
  - **SFMO Fire Prevention Week Kick-off Event**
    - Held the Friday before Fire Prevention Week on the plaza of the Bicentennial Mall State Park in downtown Nashville. Fire departments from around the state join the SFMO in kicking-off Fire Prevention Week by hosting educational display and demos. Contact the SFMO Office at 615-574-0240 for more information.

