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SAFETY EDUCATOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With a New Year comes new beginnings and opportunities to start things off on the right foot. We encourage you to take this opportunity to make fire and life safety a part of your New Year Resolution! Take a moment and look through this checklist, and newsletter, to ensure that your family will be safer this year.



2016 FIRE & LIFE SAFETY FAMILY CHECKLIST

If you're like many Americans, you're starting off the New Year with a resolution to improve your health. As you work towards your resolution, consider one additional step to maintain your health: fire prevention.

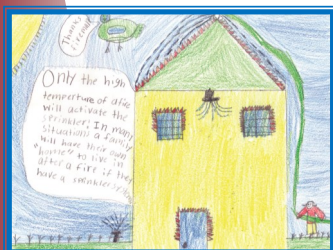
Most people say they feel safest at home. But data shows 83% of all fire deaths in the U.S. happen in homes. Follow these tips to ring in fire safety this New Year:

- Half of all home fire deaths happen at night, when people are sleeping. Make sure your home is protected by working **SMOKE ALARMS ON EVERY FLOOR** and **IN EVERY BEDROOM**.
- Make sure you have an **ESCAPE PLAN** with **TWO WAYS OUT OF EVERY ROOM**. Create a map displaying your plan and hang it on the fridge. Practice with family members and visitors, especially those spending the night.
- Create your outdoor **MEETING PLACE** and **PRACTICE** meeting at this spot.
- **TEST your smoke alarms** every month. If they are over 10 years old, replace your smoke alarms.
- **CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS** should be properly placed throughout the home and working according to manufacturer's directions.
- Cooking is the main cause of home fires and home fire injuries. **Make COOKING SAFETY your first ingredient**; stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. Fires start when the heat gets too high. If you see any smoke or grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.
- With children living in your home look for fire and burn dangers from their point of view.
- Never leave lighters or matches where children can reach them.



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JANUARY: RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS by: Highbridge Hill Elementary School, New Ipswich



Dakota-Marie Mears of Highbridge Hill Elementary School in New Ipswich would like to remind homeowners about the importance of residential sprinklers. "Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler. In many situations a family will have their own "home" to live in after a fire if they have a sprinkler system."

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HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS



Over 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. Home fire sprinklers can save lives. They respond quickly and effectively to fire, often extinguishing the fire before the fire department arrives. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire.

FACTS:

- Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. In many situations a family who has survived a fire will also have their “home” to live in and enough of the items and space in their home to continue living their lives as they did before.
- The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot, totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath.
- A home fire sprinkler system can reduce the homeowner's insurance premium.
- Fire departments typically use roughly 10 times as much water as a fire sprinkler would use to contain a fire.
- Fire sprinklers are environmentally friendly. They can reduce the amount of water run-off and pollution, fire damage by up to 71%, and water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%.
- Cigar smoke or burnt toast will not activate a fire sprinkler. Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler.
- A home fire sprinkler system is easy to maintain. Just inspect your home to make sure the sprinklers are not blocked by something that would prevent the water from coming out such as paint and be sure the main control valve is never turned off.
- Home fire sprinklers are effective in cold and warm climates. Guidelines have been created for the proper installation of systems to avoid pipes freezing. A home fire sprinkler system should be winterized the same way a domestic water supply is winterized.



PET HOME SAFETY

Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love. Our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives. But pets can cause fires. We need to be careful with pets in the home.

- ♥ 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 (1 meter) 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.
- ♥ 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.

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FIRE SAFETY FOR OLDER ADULTS

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. Take a moment to visit with older neighbors and family members to ensure that their homes and lives are kept as safe as possible!

•Keep it low

Consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escape easier. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency.

•Sound the alarm

Make sure that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping room and outside any sleeping areas. If anyone in your household is deaf or hard of hearing, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency. [LEARN MORE](#)

•Do the drill

Practice 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.

•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. Check to be sure that windows haven't been sealed shut with paint or nailed shut; if they have, arrange for someone to break the seals all around your home or remove the nails.

•Stay connected

Keep a telephone nearby, along with emergency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke.

[LEARN MORE!](#)



As the temperature drops outside, wood and pellet stoves may be fired up inside the home. What you may not realize is that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.

- ▶ Have a QUALIFIED professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys.
- ▶ Stoves should have the LABEL of an independent testing laboratory.
- ▶ In wood stoves, burn only DRY, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- ▶ Have your chimney and stove INSPECTED and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep every fall just before heating season.
- ▶ CLEAN the inside of your stove periodically using a wire brush.
- ▶ Allow ashes to COOL before disposing of them. Place ashes in a covered metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from the home and other buildings.
- ▶ Keep a CLOSE EYE on children whenever a wood or pellet stove is being used. Remind them to stay at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- ▶ Stoves need SPACE. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- ▶ INSTALL and maintain carbon monoxide alarms (CO) outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect the CO alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.

[LEARN MORE!](#)



**The New Hampshire State
Fire Marshal's Office**

J. William Degnan

NH State Fire Marshal

Mary MacCaffrie

Public Education Administrator

Sheryl Nielsen

Public Education Specialist

Department of Safety

33 Hazen Drive

Concord, NH 03305

Phone: (603)223-4289

Arson Hotline:

1-800-400-3526



Safety Educator



A message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

Not only has the New Year arrived but so has the cold winter months. With just a few short weeks into 2016 fire departments throughout the State of New Hampshire have responded to numerous calls pertaining to carbon monoxide and fires within the home. We are doing our best to provide you with the education and resources to make sure that your residence is as safe as possible, but it is up to you to follow it through. **"Fire is Everyone's Fight"**. Please dedicate some time to read this newsletter and go through your home room by room to ensure that your home is not only safe but properly equipped with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. By visiting the provided links throughout the newsletter you will be able to learn more about each topic. Please reach out to any older adults within your family and community that could use some assistance in making sure their homes are as safe as possible as well. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. We wish you and your family a healthy and safe 2016.



J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



Child Friendly & Parent Approved Websites

While we encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play, when it comes to computer time try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites. Just click the picture to open the links and play!



Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

Sheryl Nielsen,

Public Education Specialist

Sheryl.Nielsen@dos.nh.gov

603-223-4289