

Fire- & Life-Safety Education For All Ages

Just a friendly reminder, October is not the only time to review these important *Fire- and Life-Safety* procedures you can post on your refrigerator for all to read!

- **Change your Smoke Detector Batteries;** just remember to do this every time you change your clock every Spring/Fall when you accommodate daylight savings time.
- **Stop, Drop and Roll;** this action will smother the flames as running will only introduce more Oxygen to fan the flames and therefore will exponentially increase any amount of pain and suffering of a burn victim.
- **When you call 911, just remember to never ever, *EVER* hang up the phone first! [Emphasis added]** Help will always arrive, but if no words are spoken, realize Law Enforcement will have weapons readied until they know what they're walking into! Cell phone 911 calls are less forgiving but the same procedure applies.
- In case of a fire in any building, **check your exit door for *HEAT* with the back of your hand, ...and then ONLY if it is cool, open it ever so SLOWLY!**
- If **Hot** to the touch or feel, **seal the bottom of the door with a sheet and/or blanket** to prevent toxic, superheated gases from entering the very room that may save your life. **This is why it is important to always sleep with the bedroom door closed and to place a "Tot Finder" sticker on the outside of a child's bedroom window.**
- If unable to **escape to the outside by opening the window and punching out the screen, stay low to the floor in an opposite corner of the door under and behind any protection available** (i.e. bedding material, etc.) to trap cooler uncontaminated air for breathing and to possibly shield any radiant heat; remain as calm as possible; Note: Small children may hide/be frightened by Fire Fighters in FULL Bunker Gear!
- If able to escape, **stay low where the air is cooler, easier to breathe, where greater visibility is afforded** to see farther across a room or hallway to assist a fire victim to determine the best way out when seconds truly count.
- **Upon exit, report directly to "THE" pre-established meeting place** for all members of the family to meet outside and yet near the front of a home regardless of weather conditions (just like assembly on the playground in a single file line during every fire/drill at school): This is the only way to confirm an accurate life hazard risk. [Most fire fighters are injured or worse during an active live fire rescue.]
- **If a successful escape** (i.e. to the back yard) **does not allow safe passage to the 'pre-established' meeting place in the front of the home** (flames impinging both side yards of a home), **scream and yell until someone hears and finds you to be rejoined with all family members A.S.A.P.** [Fire fighters can become injured and worse searching for fire victims who have already escaped to safely yet remain unaccounted for! We never end our search until the roof nearly collapses and we are hurt ourselves!] The Safety Risk is small children may hide in fear and therefore experience incredible psychological trauma assuming the worst has occurred while Mom and Dad simultaneously assume the worst out front as they observe each fire fighter emerge without their little one! Protect us while you protect your family!

These are merely guidelines that may help to save both the life of a fire victim and that of a rescuer when every second counts before Carbon Monoxide poisoning occurs: ***The same result as slamming a twelve (12) pack of beer! How well do you think you can save yourself and/or a loved one at this level of intoxication? Impossible!***

Preventative and Non-Emergency Measures and Guidelines:

- When going to an amusement park or other place of high occupancy, establish the “**Five (5) Foot Rule**” (*max. distance from parent to child at all times... PERIOD!*);
- **Make sure each child memorizes and then recites with eyes closed the clothing worn by each parent and/or guardian.** This is an excellent habit to create and repeat that even works when going to the grocery store or shopping mall.
- **Capture a digital photo of each child** (preferably with a cell phone camera PRIOR to embarking any place(s) of gathering.) This photo can then be broadcast immediately to assist any and all necessary emergency personnel who may be assigned to that child’s search and recovery that very day. It cost literally nothing to take this photo of a child with the exact physical description and clothing worn.
- Instruct each child *if separated from a parent/guardian*, never leave the area where last sight/contact was made with the “missing” parent(s): **STAY PUT! DO NOT MOVE! MOM AND/OR DAD WILL COME BACK LOOKING FOR YOU!**
- When going on a hike or an outing or camping trip, **always have a buddy** (as taught when swimming), **communicate every detail about where, when, and how complete with the promise to return at a specific time.** If lost, save your energy and remain near present location that provides both **best shelter** and if possible, near an open area that provides **highest visibility.** **Never ever split-up unless absolutely necessary** (i.e. as LAST RESORT during a medical emergency and then only when the ‘buddy’ has FULL accurate knowledge of entire route back and forth from place where victim of injury/illness promises to wait until help arrives). **REMAIN CALM! CONSERVE ENERGY! Do all you can to maintain your faculties and be as creative as possible to utilize every resource available.**
- **ALWAYS Wear Your SEATBELT!** Just imagine your body hurling at a rate of 50+ miles an hour only inches above the pavement and gravity took its natural course. Now imagine being protected within a strong metal frame equipped with air-bags and the means to keep you secure in your padded leather seat in the event something causes you to be hit unexpected. Not only will you increase your chances of survival, but you’ll also remain behind the wheel where you belong to maintain better control of your vehicle!
- **INFANT/CHILD Seat Restraints** are just as important if not more! Simply strapping your child in is never enough until the child seat itself is *properly secured and anchored* as it is designed. If you have any questions at all, stop by your local Fire Station for assistance. We're always happy to show you everything need to know and do BEFORE it may be too late to protect your little one as you acquire the knowledge and gain a renewed confidence you have truly done as much as possible for SAFE travel together. Never underestimate the fact none of us can ever predict the next incident when we might wish we were strapped into the latest technology money can buy! Remember, any distraction but especially *cell phone use only compounds the risk of a serious accident.* The choice is yours! Fact is, people are seriously injured and die in car accidents, but the passage of *this law has truly made an incredible difference!* A law for all of those most important to YOU!



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