



The Bonner County Safety Record

All the News that is Safe to Print

October 17, 2016
Edition 17

Fire Prevention Month

October is Fire Prevention Month. As we get into the colder months with wood burning fireplaces, wood stoves and space heaters, take the time to read through the Bonner County Safety Record for fire facts and how to prevent them in your home.

NFPA Facts:

Home fires

- Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Only one in five home fires were reported during these hours.
- One quarter of home fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom. Another quarter resulted from fires in the living room, family room or den.
- In 2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 367,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,745 deaths, 11,825 civilian injuries, and \$6.8 billion in direct damage.
- On average, seven people die in U.S. home fires per day.
- Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment.
- Smoking materials are the leading cause of home fire deaths.

Smoke alarms

- Three out of five home fire deaths in 2009-2013 were caused by fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in home fires by 50%.
- When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.

Escape planning

- According to an NFPA survey, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, more than half never practiced it.
- One-third of survey respondents who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less. Only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

Cooking

- 40% of (home) fires started in the kitchen. Unattended cooking was a factor in one-third of reported home cooking fires.
- Ranges accounted for three of every five (61%) home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 13%.
- Frying is the leading activity associated with cooking fires.



Don't Wait CHECK the date!

REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 9-15, 2016**

firepreventionweek.org

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Heating

- The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean. This usually involved creosote build-up in chimneys.
- Portable or fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in one-third (33%) of home heating fires and four out of five (81%) home heating deaths.
- Just over half of home heating fire deaths resulted from fires caused by heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.
- In most years, heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths, and fire injuries.

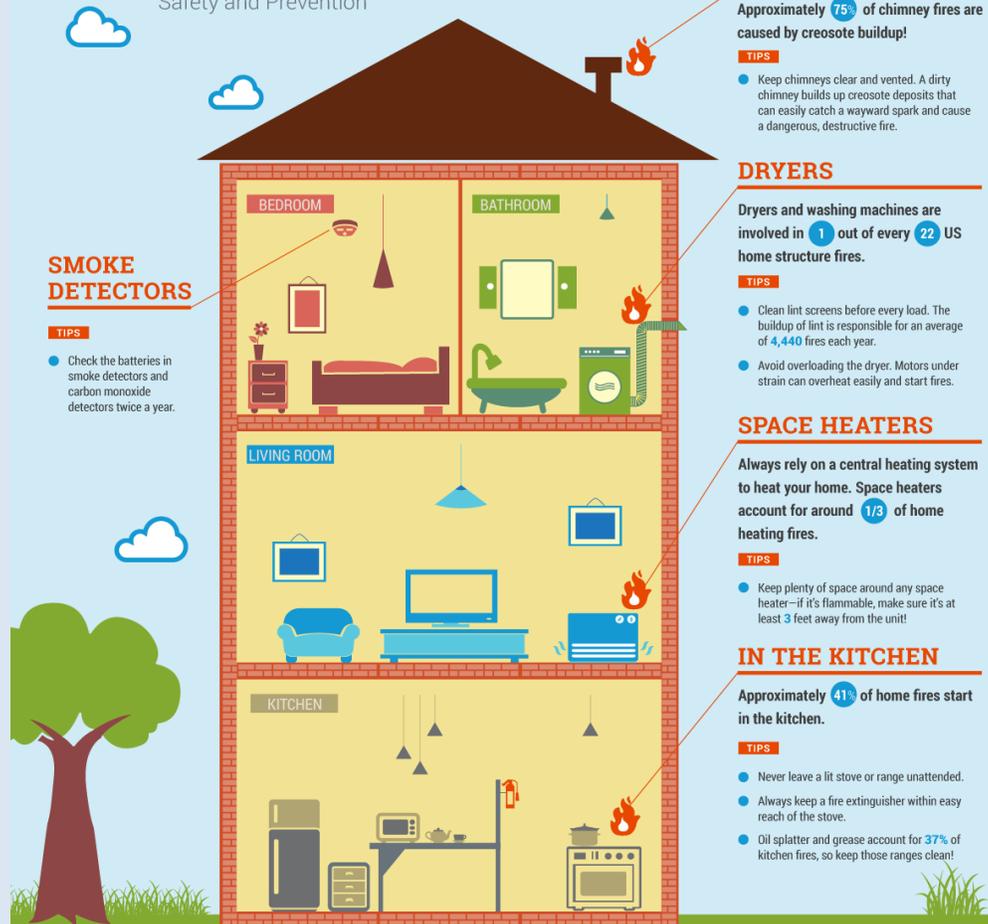
Summary/ To do List

- Check your smoke detectors, if over 10 years old, replace it.
- Change your smoke detectors' batteries.
- Test your smoke detectors.
- Clean your wood stove's chimney.
- Don't leave stove top-cooking unattended.
- If you use supplemental heating equipment, such as space heaters, use safer options, such as oil filled electrical heaters.
- If you use supplemental heating equipment, keep them clear of combustibles such as drapes or furniture.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors on each level and one by the gas furnace and gas clothes dryer, if you have one.



A Guide to Household Fire Safety and Prevention

HOUSEHOLD FIRES ARE DANGEROUS, DESTRUCTIVE, AND ALL TOO COMMON.



In the Event of a Fire
> **Have a Plan**

- Brainstorm at least 2 ways to escape from each room in your home, and decide on a meeting spot outside and away from the house.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember **P.A.S.S.**: Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle, Squeeze the handle, and Sweep from side to side.

Sources:
http://www.nfpa.org/~media/Files/Research/Fact%20sheets/home_heating_fact_sheet.pdf
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<http://www.nfpa.org/press-room/news-releases/2010/nfpa-study-nearly-all-structure-fire-deaths-happen-in-home-fires>
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v4i4.pdf>

