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Fire Prevention Week
October 8 - 14

Home Fire Safety Tip #1: Install Smoke Detectors

Simply put, having smoke detectors installed in your home is your single best weapon against fire fatalities. Almost all fire-related deaths happen in homes without working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors should be placed on every floor of your home and in the immediate vicinity of any bedrooms. The detectors should be tested once a month, and the batteries should be replaced at least once a year. Most manufacturers suggest that you completely replace your smoke detectors every 10 years as well, just to be safe.

Home Fire Safety Tip #2: Develop an Escape Plan

Besides smoke detectors, the second most important thing you can do is to draw up an escape plan, and talk about it, in detail, with your family. This means planning at least two escape routes from every bedroom, purchasing fire ladders for upstairs bedrooms, and making sure that every member of your household knows basic home fire safety procedures. Checking doors for heat before opening them, crawling on the floor to stay out of the smoke, and knowing the closest way out, can all save lives in a major fire. Finally, don't just talk about your plan, practice it at least twice a year. Remember those fire drills back in grade school? Schedule a few for your home as well.



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start a forest fire,
but it takes a
whole box
to start a
barbecue?*

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Home Fire Safety Tip #3: Install Fire Extinguishers

Having several fire extinguishers on hand throughout your home is critical when it comes to making sure small fires don't turn into big ones. Always keep one in the kitchen, one in the garage, and one in any workshop areas of your home, since those are where most residential fires start. Also, check your extinguishers regularly to make sure they're still in working order. There's nothing more heartbreaking than pulling the pin, squeezing the handle, and having nothing happen because your fire extinguisher has expired.

Little Girl's Fire Truck

A fire fighter is working on the engine outside the station when he notices a little girl next door in a little red wagon with little ladders hung off the side and a garden hose tightly coiled in the middle.

The girl is wearing a fire fighter's helmet and has the wagon tied to a dog and cat. The fire fighter walks over to take a closer look. "That sure is a nice fire truck," the fire fighter says with admiration.

"Thanks," the girl says.

The fire fighter looks a little closer and notices the girl has tied the wagon to the dog's collar and to the cat's testicles. "Little Partner," the fire fighter says, "I don't want to tell you how to run your fire truck, but if you were to tie that rope around the cat's collar, I think you could go faster."

The little girl replied, "You're probably right, but then I wouldn't have a siren."

*More than
80 percent
of fatal fires
occur in
the home.*



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*Family life is the normal context
in which we can learn that a life filled
with thinking about others instead
of ourselves is the sure road to the
most fulfilling joys and satisfactions.*

- Alan Keyes

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A Fireman's Life

A fireman's life is one big surprise,
Usually he laughs, sometimes he cries.
There's always stress, toil and strife,
Hoping he's good enough to save just one life.

His wife understands, when he misses dinner,
If he runs out of church, don't think he's a sinner.
Answering a call, is tops on his list,
Regretting each one he's ever missed.

He tries and tries, but can't make us see,
The happiest men, still work for free.
Jumping from bed, fighting the cold,
Knowing what to do, without being told.

He rushes to the station, jumps on a truck.
Depending on skill, never on luck.
Putting his life on the line, for an unknown friend,
Hoping and praying, it won't be the end.
"The Bravest Men in the World", the title is fitting,
They all do their best, never come close to quitting.
Next time you see them, all their lights blinking,
Take just a minute, to think what they're thinking.

It's a hard job, so show them you care,
And help them out, with a little prayer.

-- Daniel S. Driscoll. --

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