

Fire and Carbon Monoxide Safety Tips

- **Make sure your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarms are functioning by testing them once per month.** Both alarms should be battery-operated or have a battery back-up, and batteries should be changed once per year. You should have a *separate* alarm for each to prevent these separate emergencies.
- **Have a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm on every floor, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.** You can check for interconnecting alarms so that one sounds, they all sound.
- **Your smoke alarm doesn't just sound when there is a fire.** Learn the difference between the sounds: **three loud beeps (continuous)** means there is smoke or a fire, and **one "chirp" every 30-60 seconds** means it is time to change the battery.
- **Your smoke alarm must be changed every 10 years.** Make sure you find out how old the smoke alarm is when you move into a new residence. If your smoke alarm continues to "chirp" even after you have replaced the battery, it's time to replace your smoke alarm.
- **Most home fires start in the kitchen.** Make sure you always keep watch over your cooking and that there is a fire extinguisher nearby.
- **Have a fire escape plan and review it with your family.** Make sure plans meet the needs of those with disabilities, children, and those with mobility issues in the household.
- **Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion.** If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.
- **On average, one of every 13 hotel or motel reports a structure fire each year.** Make sure you are staying at a hotel or motel equipped with smoke alarms and sprinklers, locate the fire exits when you arrive, and review the escape plan with your traveling companions.
- **Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.**
- **Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open.** Use generators outside only, at least 20 feet away from your home.