

October 2021

## Fire Safety Awareness

October is Fire Safety Month, with the goal of raising fire safety awareness to keep you, your family, friends, and co-workers safe. Fire dangers can be all around us — in and around our homes and workplaces. With so much on our plates, it's easy to be distracted and overlook safety concerns. Following these simple tips will help ensure the safety of your friends and family, and co-workers.

### Workplace

- Make sure your workplace has the correct type and number of **fire extinguishers**. Do monthly and annual inspections of extinguishers, ensuring they are in good, working condition. Your place of employment should provide training on the correct use of extinguishers for employees.
- **Install smoke alarms** in all work areas. Test smoke alarms each month and be sure to have working batteries in each alarm.
- **Smoke in designated areas.** In the workplace, permit smoking only in designated smoking areas and be sure to extinguish smoking materials in a safe place.
- Use and **store chemicals** safely. Have designated chemical storage areas with adequate ventilation. Be sure chemicals are labeled correctly for flammability and other fire hazards.
- **Keep clutter under control.** Clutter can become a fuel source in the event of a fire. Clutter can also block exit routes — be sure that windows and doors are accessible to employees.
- **Have a fire escape plan.** Post the best exit routes in case of a fire and train employees to know where to go, with all exit and escape routes clearly defined.
- **Post a list of emergency contact phone numbers.** Also share vital information such as the company address, important phone numbers, and a building floor plan and emergency action plan.



### Home

- Make sure your home has a **working fire extinguisher** in the kitchen, garage, and basement. Check the extinguishers each month. Be sure your family members know how to properly use a fire extinguisher in the case of an emergency.

- **Install smoke alarms** on all levels of your home, especially in sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms each month and be sure to have working batteries in each alarm.
- **Smoking safely** at home is vital to the safety of your family. Do not smoke in bed and put out cigarettes in an ashtray or bucket with sand. Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials out of the reach of children and locked.
- Use and **store chemicals** safely. Make sure chemicals are labeled correctly and keep out of reach of children and locked.
- **Stay clutter free.** Clutter can become a fuel source in the event of a fire. Clutter can also block exit routes — be sure that windows and doors are accessible to family members.
- **Have a fire escape plan.** Practice an escape plan with your family twice a year, making sure children know how to get out of a window and where to meet in case of a home fire.
- Teach your family how to **call 911** in case of a fire. Make sure they know the house address and emergency phone numbers. If children are not able to memorize, post important emergency information in a visible place in the home.



For more information, please visit:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week> or  
<https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/safety-topics/emergency-preparedness/fire>