

# Safety Topics

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## Fire Prevention and Fire Safety

### Home Safe Home

**How Fire Safe is your home?  
Try this checklist.**

- ◇ Does your home have at least one smoke alarm on each floor?
- ◇ Have you replaced the batteries in your smoke alarm in the past year?
- ◇ Do you have a fire extinguisher? Does everyone know how to use it?
- ◇ Do you have a home escape plan and has it been practiced?
- ◇ Is there a designated meeting place outside of the home in case of emergency?
- ◇ If you have a fireplace, does it have a screen or doors?
- ◇ Do your electrical outlets have no more than two cords plugged into them?
- ◇ Are all electrical cords in good shape? Do they have ground plugs?
- ◇ Are electrical cords run under furniture or rugs or in traffic patterns?
- ◇ Are space heaters and candles kept away from walls, drapes, furniture and bedding?
- ◇ Is the iron always unplugged and put away in a safe place when it is not in use?
- ◇ Are pots on the stove positioned so that the handles are turned in to prevent them from being knocked off?

I think the correct answer to these questions should be obvious.

Some other things to think about:

Keep flammables in appropriate containers with proper labels and stored away from sources of ignition. I personally know of two situations where unsafe conditions resulted in major fire damage to people or property.

- In the one case a neighbor of mine was working on a snowmobile in his garage. He removed the gas tank and set it aside. Vapors from the tank were ignited by the gas water heater. No one was injured but the house was a total loss.

- Just recently another neighbor was cutting with a torch on a tank of some sort in a home shop. His two young children, a girl and a boy, were playing nearby. The tank exploded. The man suffered some minor burns but the little girl was burned seriously enough that she had to spend nearly two months in the hospital.

I am sure many of you can relate similar stories that involve fire or explosion. And the point is, you can not be too careful when dealing with fire.

**How about workplace fire safety.** Are you inspecting your fire extinguishers monthly? According to OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.157(e)(2), extinguishers are to be visually inspected monthly. But more importantly, the inspections assure that the fire

extinguisher is accessible, properly charged, and not damaged. It would be a terrible feeling to need the extinguisher and find that it is not usable.

There are 3 common types of fires: Class A, Class B, and Class C. Class A fires are those that involve natural fibers such as wood, paper, cloth, etc. These can be fought with water. Class B fires involve flammable liquids such as oils and greases. Water will not be effective on Class B fires. Class C fires involve electrical equipment. Water should never be used on an electrical fire. We commonly have ABC fire extinguishers that are capable of fighting all 3 Classes.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- October is National Fire Safety Month
- Fire Safety Starts with You!

### For what it is Worth!

**I still have German Shepherd puppies available. They are Large AKC Black and Tan from top quality parents (Father is 115 pounds and hip certified). Registration papers and shot records are provided. They were born on July 27, 2001. If you are interested give me a call at (317) 432-9604.**



