

10 IMPORTANT TIPS to remember for fire safety and awareness



- 1 Install smoke alarms outside of sleeping areas and rooms and on each level of your home.
- 2 Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out then call for help.
- 3 When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable - they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
- 4 Test your smoke alarm each month and change the batteries at least once a year.
- 5 Plant fire prone trees and shrubs away from your home and far enough apart so they won't ignite one another.
- 6 Install noncombustible 1/4 inch or smaller mesh screening on chimney outlets, attic/soffit vents and around elevated wood decks.
- 7 Maintain a "defensible" space around your home by clearing all flammable vegetation a minimum of 30 feet around all structures. Clear dead leaves and branches to leave widely spaced ornamental shrubbery and trees.
- 8 Consider installing protective shutters or heavy fire-resistant drapes.
- 9 Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and other structures on the property.
- 10 Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away.

Source: USFA (www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/fswy11.pdf),
Red Cross (www.redcrossstl.org/ProgramsServices/DisasterServices/DisasterSafetyTips/HomeFireSafety.aspx),
FLASH www.flash.org