

HOME FIRE & SAFETY GUIDE

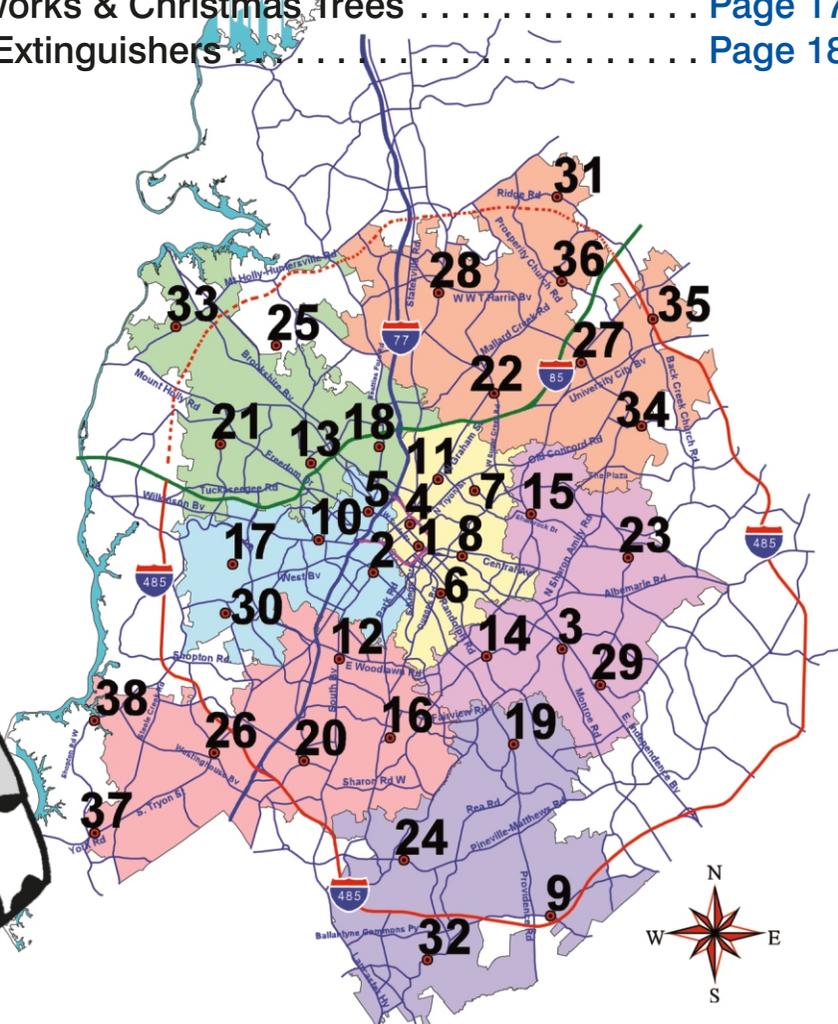


CHARLOTTE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
WWW.CHARLOTTEFIRE.ORG



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calling 9-1-1	Page 2
Fire Safety	Page 3-4
Cooking Safety	Page 5
Grilling Safety	Page 6
Carbon Monoxide	Page 7
Fire Escape Planning	Page 8
Home Evacuation Plan Grid	Page 9-10
Home Safety Checklist	Page 11
High Rise Fire Safety	Page 12
Senior Safety	Page 13
Child Safety	Page 14
Severe Weather & Disaster Supply Kit	Page 15-16
Fireworks & Christmas Trees	Page 17
Fire Extinguishers	Page 18



Charlotte Fire Department Station Locations

Calling 9-1-1

When police, fire or medical emergencies occur, calling 9-1-1 can save precious time. 9-1-1 is a central telephone number for you to call for all types of emergencies. A telecommunicator quickly takes your information and dispatches the emergency help that you need. Post 9-1-1 or other emergency numbers you may need on or near your telephone for quick access during an emergency.

Call 9-1-1 to Report:

- All fires no matter how small or even if you think it's been extinguished!
- All life threatening medical emergencies!
- Serious or life threatening crimes in progress!
- Serious traffic crashes!
- Other life-threatening situations!
- Dangerous situations or urgent hazards!



When Calling 9-1-1:

- Speak slowly and clearly
- Explain the type of emergency you have
- Give the location, your name, address, and telephone number
- Answer any questions that the telecommunicator may have
- Don't hang up - stay on the telephone with the telecommunicator if they tell you to

When NOT to Call 9-1-1



- For non-emergency services, general information or questions
- Barking dogs or cats stuck in a tree
- Weather information
- Power outages
- Driving directions and road conditions
- Telephone numbers

In Charlotte use these non-emergency telephone numbers:

Fire 704-336-2441 Medic 704-943-6200 Police 3-1-1

False Calls to 9-1-1

- Making false calls to 9-1-1 as a joke or prank is a serious crime
- False calls delay emergency assistance to those who really need it
- The 9-1-1 system automatically traces where every call was made from and it displays the name and address that telephone is registered to (like caller ID) on a computer screen in front of the telecommunicator... even if you hang up
- Emergency Services will be sent to the location the call came from in case help is needed
- You may be charged with a crime if the call is intentionally false

Fire Safety

Fire kills more Americans each year than all natural disasters combined. Never delay reporting any fire to the fire department.

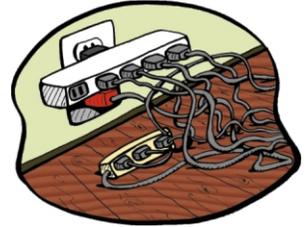


Plan Ahead

- Have and practice a home escape plan
- Have a fire escape ladder for two story homes
- Sleep with your bedroom door closed
- Keep stairs, halls, windows and doors unobstructed
- Do not use security bars on doors or windows
- Have a 2-A:10-B:C rated fire extinguisher available
- Clearly post your street address numbers
- Do not use double cylinder (double keyed) deadbolt locks on any exit door

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- Never use an extension cord as a substitute for permanent wiring
- Have any necessary electrical work or repairs done by a qualified electrician
- Do not run any extension or appliance cords under a rug
- Do not set furniture or heavy objects on any electrical cord
- Never overload any electrical outlets, extension cords or circuits
- Use approved surge protection devices in place of extension cords
- Never alter or force a three prong plug to fit into a two prong outlet
- Clean dryer lint screens and ducts frequently
- Never leave any operating appliances unattended
- Install and maintain appliances according to the manufacturers directions
- Only use UL tested and approved appliances
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet or damp areas



Smoke Alarms Save Lives

- Never disable or borrow a battery from a smoke alarm
- Follow the manufacturers directions for installation
- Test smoke alarms monthly and change batteries at least twice a year
- Consider special smoke alarms for hearing or visually impaired persons
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas



Careless Smoking

- Do not smoke if you are in bed, lying down, sleepy, tired, distracted or impaired
- Never leave any lit smoking materials unattended
- Keep smoking materials, matches and lighters secured and away from children
- Use deep, tip proof non-combustible ashtrays and do not put them on sofas or chairs
- Completely wet butts and ashes before disposing of them in metal containers

Heating Safety

- Do not store combustibles or flammable liquids near any heat source
- Use a mesh or glass fireplace screen to block sparks from flying out
- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified person
- Only burn seasoned hardwoods in fireplaces and woodstoves
- Only use UL tested and approved heating appliances
- Use heaters with a “tip over switch” that turns it off if it is knocked over
- Keep children and pets away from kerosene or space heaters
- Do not leave any kerosene or space heater in use unattended
- Never use kerosene or space heaters in bedrooms or while sleeping
- Only use kerosene heaters in well ventilated rooms
- Keep all combustibles at least 36 inches away from kerosene and space heaters
- Always refuel kerosene heaters outside and after the heater has completely cooled
- Use clear K-1 kerosene, never gasoline or camp-stove fuel in a kerosene heater
- Store fuel in clearly labeled and securely closed containers
- Follow the manufacturers directions when using kerosene or space heaters

Candle Safety

- Extinguish all candles and oil lamps when leaving a room or going to sleep
- Keep candles and oil lamps away from anything that can catch fire and burn
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, tip proof and have a protective glass globe
- Place candles and oil lamps on flat, sturdy and uncluttered surfaces
- Do not let children or teens use candles in their bedrooms
- Do not attempt to carry a lit candle or oil lamp



Matches, Lighters and Juvenile Firesetting

- Keep matches and lighters secured at all times and away from children
- Do not allow children to use matches or lighters, teach that they are tools, not toys
- Tell children if they find matches or lighters not to touch them, but to tell an adult
- Kids who play with or set fires may have underlying issues - get professional help
- If your child has fire play or fire setting habits call the CFD Fire Educators at 704-336-3970
- Monitor vacant buildings in your neighborhood and report suspicious activity
- Keep boxes, trash and yard debris away from buildings

Remember- If Your Clothes Catch Fire.....



Cooking Safety

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and a leading cause of fire deaths and injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of all home cooking fires!

Before You Cook

- Make sure cooking equipment is properly installed and maintained
- Do not cook if you are sleepy, distracted or impaired
- Move all combustible items away from the stove
- Wear tight sleeves that will not drag across the cooking surface burners
- Make sure the stove is clean and free of any grease build-up
- Have a 2-A:10-B:C dry chemical fire extinguisher near by



While You Cook

- **Never leave food cooking on the stove or in the oven unattended**
- If you have to leave turn the stove and oven off
- Take a big spoon, oven mitt or kitchen timer to remind you that food is cooking
- Keep the stovetop clear of clutter and combustible items
- If you become distracted by something turn the stove and oven off
- Turn pot and pan handles inward to prevent knocking them over
- Clean spills and splatters as they occur
- Do not let children or pets play near the stove or in the kitchen if food is cooking
- Supervise older children when they cook
- Keep a lid for the pan you are using close at hand
 - Monitor the heating and use of oil and grease closely
 - Be careful when removing lids and covers, escaping steam may burn you
 - Never use a wet oven mitt or pot holder as it presents a scald danger
 - Never put metal or aluminum foil in the microwave oven
 - Never use your stove or oven to heat your house
 - Always check to be sure the stove and oven are turned off before going to bed



If You Have A Fire While Cooking

- Carefully slide a lid onto the pan if possible and leave it in place
- Turn off the burner or fuel supply
- Never put water on a grease or oil fire
- Never try to move, carry or walk with a pan that is on fire
- For a fire in an oven close the door and turn off the appliance
- If you have a fire in a microwave keep the door closed and un-plug it
- Immediately report all fires to the fire department



Grilling Safety

Grilling leads to an estimated 1,000 home structure fires and 3,400 outdoor fires each year. Liquid Propane (LP) and charcoal grills must only be used and stored outdoors.



Safety Tips

- Follow all of the manufacturers instructions for your grill
- Only use grills approved by an independent testing laboratory
- Have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it
- Do not grill within 10 feet of any structure or combustible item such as decks, porches, siding, overhangs, canopies, awnings or tree branches
- Never grill in or around pine needles, mulch or any other dried vegetation
- Never grill indoors or inside any enclosed structure, space, building or tent
- Keep grills a safe distance from play areas, children, pets and foot traffic
- Never grill if you are sleepy, distracted or impaired
- Never smoke or have any open flames near any grill or when lighting a grill
- Check grill hoses for cracks and loose connections and never use a grill with gas leaks
- Never use a flammable liquid to light a grill or on a grill that is already lit
- Never light a grill with the lid closed - Always make sure the grill lid is open
- If the grill does not light turn off the burner and fuel supply and wait several minutes before trying again
- Perform regular routine maintenance and cleaning on your grill
- Never attempt to move a grill that is already lit
- Never leave food cooking on a grill unattended
- Use long handled cooking utensils
- Do not wear loose clothes that will drag or fall onto the grill

IF YOUR GRILL CATCHES FIRE:

- Close the lid
- Turn off the burner
- Turn off the LP tank valve
- Evacuate the area
- Call the fire department at 9-1-1



- After cooking, close the LP tank valve, turn off the burner then close the lid
- Never smoke while transporting a LP tank
- Never store a grill or LP cylinder inside any structure, building or tent or on or under any building, balcony, deck or porch
- Store and transport LP tanks in a secure upright position and away from heat sources and flammable liquids
- Close the LP tank valve when not in use
- Dispose of hot ashes and coals in empty metal containers

Carbon Monoxide

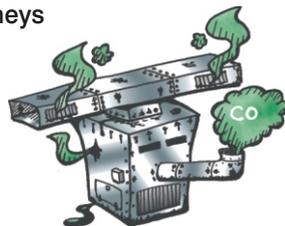
Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. It is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes. CO can kill you, family members and pets before you are aware it is in your home.

Where Does Carbon Monoxide Come From

CO comes from improperly operating gasoline fueled engines, natural gas appliances, fuel oil burning appliances, kerosene heaters, liquid propane (LP) appliances, gas water heaters, LP gas and charcoal grills, wood stoves and fireplaces.

What to Look For

- Rusting or sooting on heating duct work, vents or chimneys
- Loose or missing furnace panels, vents or duct work
- Poor ventilation of fuel burning appliances or fireplace
- Moisture on the inside of windows
- Damaged or malfunctioning fuel burning appliances
- Blockage in vents, duct work or chimney
- Unfamiliar burning odor
- Decreasing hot water supply from water heater
- Furnace is not able to heat the house adequately or runs constantly
- Improperly installed, operating or serviced appliances



CO Prevention

- Install CO alarms on each level of your home near sleeping areas and test them monthly
- Never use a charcoal or gas grill inside any building, structure or any enclosed space
- Do not use a gas stove for heating the house
- Never leave any gasoline engine running inside a garage, any enclosed area or building
- Install, use and maintain all fuel burning appliances according to the manufacturers directions
- Do not use portable fuel burning equipment or generators inside a home, garage, RV, tent or any enclosed space
- Have your heating system serviced and fireplace or wood stove cleaned annually

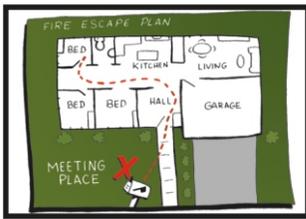
Signs and Symptoms of CO Poisoning

Dizziness, nausea, fatigue, sleepiness, weakness, headache, difficulty or irregular breathing, confusion, multiple family members sick at the same time, loss of consciousness



What to Do

- Get everyone outside to fresh air immediately
- Call 9-1-1 from a safe location
- Do not re-enter the house until cleared by the fire department
- Seek immediate medical attention



Fire Escape Planning

What is a Home Fire Escape Plan? It's your strategy for a safe escape from your home in the event that a fire occurs. Advanced planning ensures that you and your family members will know how to get out and where to go. Practice your escape plan so that all family members become familiar with it!

How to Make Your Plan

- Carefully remove the grid page and draw a floor plan of your home
- Include all exits, doors and windows
- Show two ways out of each room
- Have a meeting place outside the house and show it on your plan
- Write your fire departments emergency telephone number on the plan
- Post the plan where it is clearly visible to all residents and guests

Special Needs

If you have a family member with special needs they may require help getting out in the event of a fire. They should sleep in a bedroom on the first floor and near someone who can provide assistance to them. Keep canes, walkers or wheelchairs near the bed for quick access. Build ramps in place of porch or deck steps as a way for mobility impaired persons to get out of the house.

Review and Practice Your Plan

Review the plan with all family members. Walk through the escape routes for all rooms. Make sure everyone uses both of the indicated exit routes and goes to the meeting place.

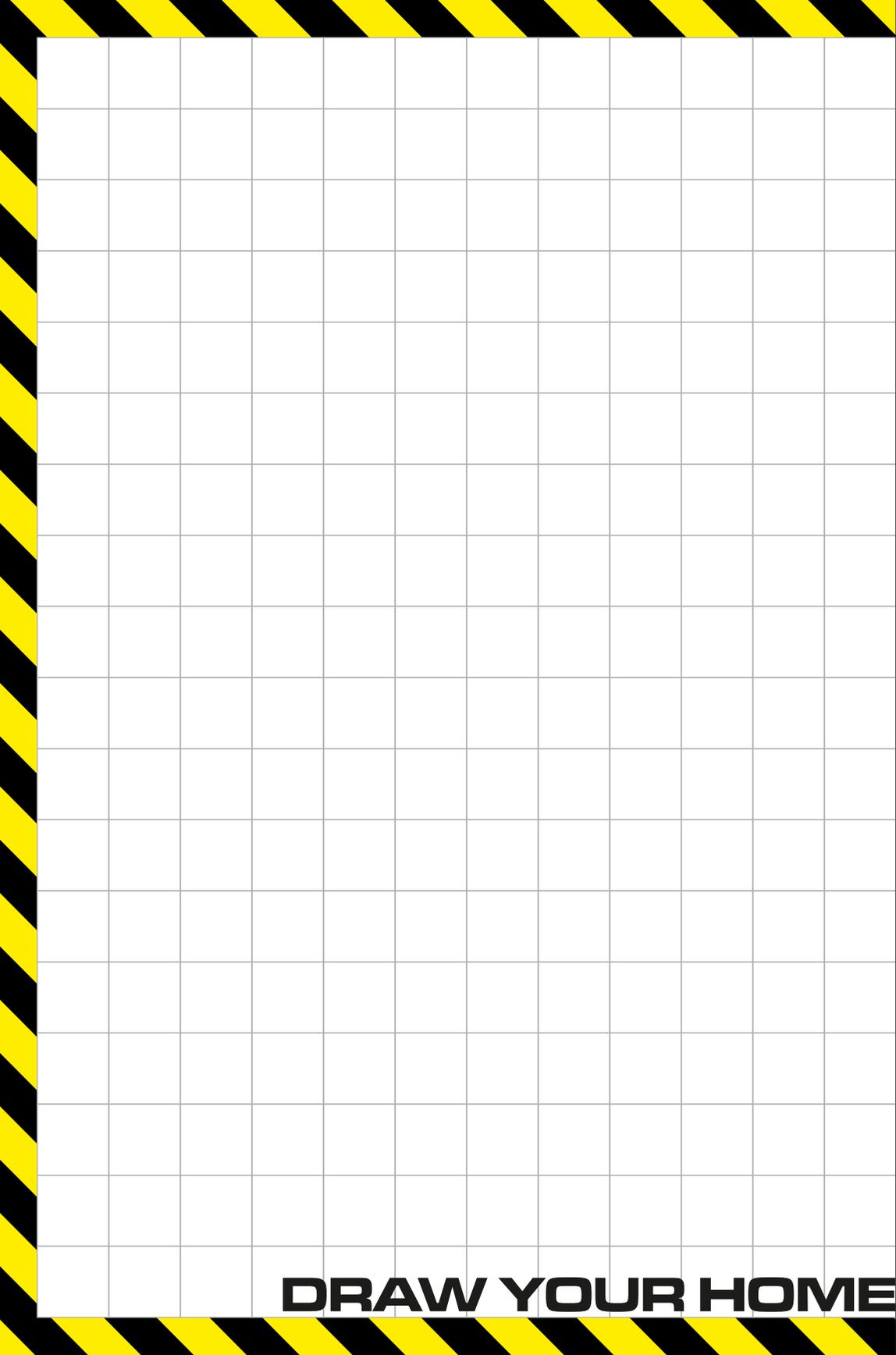
At Least Twice a Year Have a Home Fire Drill:

- Close bedroom doors and sound the smoke alarm by pushing the test button
- Family members should “get low” under any smoke and evacuate the house
- Always test doors by feeling them with your hand before opening them
- If the door is warm or hot, don't open it - use your second way out
- If it is not hot, carefully open it to check for smoke before proceeding
- Everyone should go to the meeting place and remain there
- Watch children to make sure they don't take unnecessary or dangerous chances

During a Fire or Smoke Situation...

- Once outside, never go back inside
- Call the fire department from outside or a neighbors house
- Remain at the safe meeting place
- Report missing persons to the fire department
- Get an escape ladder for your multi-story home



A drawing sheet featuring a large grid of 15 columns and 20 rows. The grid is bounded by a yellow and black diagonal hazard border. The text 'DRAW YOUR HOME' is printed in bold black letters at the bottom right of the grid.

DRAW YOUR HOME



FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



Home Safety Checklist

Use this checklist and complete your home fire safety inspection. Take the appropriate action necessary to correct all identified fire hazards!

Smoke Alarms

- There is a working smoke and carbon monoxide alarm on each level of the home and near sleeping areas
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms are never disabled
- All alarms are tested monthly
- Batteries are changed twice a year

Heating

- No space heater left in use unattended
- All combustible items at least 3 feet away from any heating source
- Space heaters are UL approved and have a safety tip over switch
- Heating system serviced annually
- Fireplace has protective screen
- Chimney inspected & cleaned yearly

Hazardous & Poisonous Materials

- Hazardous materials, poisons, and medications are stored locked up and out of the reach of children and pets
- All hazardous materials, poisons and medications are kept in their original, tightly closed container
- All hazardous & flammable materials are stored out of the house and away from heat & electrical sources



Smoking

- No smoking in bed, while lying down or tired
- Deep, tip proof non-combustible ashtrays used
- Ashes & butts are wet before disposal
- No ashtrays on the arms or cushions of sofas or chairs

Outside

- Street address is clearly posted & visible
- Trash, yard waste and combustible materials are kept away from the house

Cooking and Grilling

- Cooking food is not left unattended
- Stove is clean and grease free
- No storage on or near stove
- Pot handles are turned inward
- Grill is at least 10 ft away from any combustible materials
- Grill never used or stored inside

Electrical

- Electrical outlets are not overloaded
- Electrical cords are not frayed or cracked
- Extension cords are replaced by UL approved surge protectors and not used as a substitute for permanent wiring
- No electrical cord under rug or furniture
- Appliances are UL approved

Match, Lighter and Candles

- Matches & lighters are kept locked up and out of the reach of children
- Candles & oil lamps are never left burning unattended or while sleeping
- Candle holders are non-combustible and tip resistant with protective globes
- Children & teens do not use candles in their bedrooms or when unsupervised

Evacuation

- No double key deadbolt locks are used
- Our family has a home fire escape plan
- Windows and doors open easily
- All paths of exit, stairs and halls are clear of obstructions
- We do at least two fire drills annually

Fire Extinguisher

- An 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher is readily available
- Our extinguisher is serviced yearly
- We know how to P.A.S.S. (Page 18)

High Rise Fire Safety

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility. Report any fire safety equipment problems or fire hazards to the buildings management.



Be Prepared

- Learn and practice your building's evacuation plan
- Know where your designated meeting place is
- Recognize the sound of your building's fire alarm
- Know at least two different ways out of the building
- If you need special assistance let someone in authority know ahead of time

Practice Good Fire Prevention

- Never lock or block any exit door, path of exit or stairway
- Keep fire doors and doors to stairways closed
- Do not store anything in the paths of exit or in the stairways
- Only smoke in designated areas and dispose of smoking materials properly
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from all combustible materials
- Do not use or store any flammable liquids
- Do not overload any electrical outlets or circuits
- Do not block fire sprinkler heads with storage or fixtures

In The Event of Fire

- Assist any persons in immediate danger if you safely can
- If you discover a fire, pull the fire alarm and call 9-1-1
- Begin an immediate evacuation upon activation of the fire alarm system
- Follow your buildings evacuation plan and close doors behind you as you exit
- Listen for directions or announcements over the building public address system
- Test any doors before you open them - feel them with the back of your hand
- If the door is cool, slowly open it and check for smoke or fire before proceeding
- If the door is hot, do not open it, seek another way out
- If you encounter smoke on your way out get low to the floor and crawl out
- Never use the elevator to evacuate, you could quickly become trapped inside
- Once out stay out... Do not re-enter without approval of the Fire Department



If You Become Trapped

- Go to a room with an outside window, call 9-1-1 and report your location and circumstances, follow directions and don't hang up until told to do so
- Stuff clothing or towels into the space at the bottom of the door to block smoke
- Wave a light color cloth to get the attention of the firefighters
- Open the window at the top or bottom if no smoke is coming in, but do not break it

R.E.D.

If unable to follow your plan:

Ready to the problem

Evaluate the situation

Decide on the best course of action to take

Senior Safety

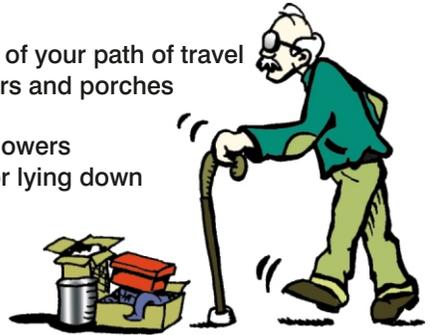
Why are older people at a higher risk for fire death and accidental injuries? They may be less able to take quick action in the event of an emergency, be on medications that affect their ability to make quick decisions or live alone and not have the help needed when a fire or accident occurs.

Fall Prevention

Fall injuries limit your ability to lead an independent and active life

Reduce Your Risk

- Take care of medical problems and get regular exercise
- Have your vision checked and wear your glasses
- Avoid walking on wet, icy or snow covered surfaces
- Stay on sidewalks and use exterior lighting
- Wear low heel shoes with wide rubber soles
- Install more lighting to keep living areas well lit and use night-lights
- Keep a flashlight near your bed
- Use non-skid throw rugs and mats
- Keep extension cords and telephone lines out of your path of travel
- Remove clutter or furniture from hallways, stairs and porches
- Use a cane, walker or handrail for support
- Use grab bars and rubber mats in tubs and showers
- Take your time - Stand up slowly after sitting or lying down



Fire Prevention

- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on all levels of your home and test them monthly
- Install smoke alarms designed for the visually or hearing impaired if needed
- Never cook if you are sleepy, tired or impaired
- Never leave any food cooking on the stove or in the oven unattended
- Know your abilities and design your home fire escape plan around them
- Seek the assistance of a building manager or family member to practice your plan
- Have a ramp and handrails installed from front and back porches
- Live and sleep on the first floor if possible and know two ways out of all rooms
- Keep your glasses and cane or walker at your bedside
- Clearly post emergency phone numbers on your telephone
- Use a cordless phone and call the fire department from outside or a safe place
- Tell the fire department of your special needs in the event of a fire or emergency
- Never smoke in bed or if you are sleepy, tired or impaired
- Use large, deep ashtrays and never put them on sofas or chairs
- Never delay calling the fire department for any fire

Child Safety

Accidental injuries are the leading cause of death for children age 14 and under. Children should always be supervised by a responsible adult.

Safety Seats

- Children should always ride in the back seat
- Children 12 and under should never ride in front of an airbag
- Children should face the rear of the vehicle until they are at least one year of age and weigh at least 20 pounds
- Children should remain rear facing until reaching the maximum weight for the car safety seat as long as the top of their head is below the top of the safety seat
- Children less than 8 years old and less than 80 lbs must be in a weight appropriate safety seat or booster seat



Bike and Pedestrian Safety

- Cross only at designated crossings and obey all traffic rules, signs and signals
- Before riding into or crossing the street: stop, look left, look right and look left again
 - Ride single file and with traffic and never hitch onto cars
 - Be visible - wear reflective clothing, do not ride at night or in bad weather and use lights and reflectors
 - Always wear a bike helmet that has a stiff outer shell, an energy absorbing liner, chin strap and fastener, is lightweight and fits comfortably



Water Safety

- Never leave a child alone in or near water, including the bath tub
- Children should only swim when supervised by a responsible adult
- Always use approved personal flotation devices (PFD) or life jacket
- Remove toys from around pools and use child proof safety barriers
- Do not eat food or drink while in the water



Follow these four key safe swimming rules:

- Never swim alone • Never dive into unknown bodies of water • Don't run, jump on or push others • Be prepared for an emergency

Poison Prevention

- Keep medicines, cleaning and hazardous items in cabinets with child proof locks
- Use child resistant caps and keep the lids tightly closed
- Never refer to medicine as candy or take medication in front of a child
- Keep all medications and cleaning products in their proper containers
- Never store food or snacks with cleaning products or medications
- Know the number for Poison Control **1-800-222-1222**



Falls Prevention

- Never leave babies alone on beds, changing tables or furniture
- Do not let children play on stairs, high porches or decks, balconies or near open or unsecured windows or doors
- Use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs if you have infants or toddlers
- Always use rubber mats or slip resistant stickers in the bath tub and shower
- Always supervise children on play equipment



Before Severe Weather

- Learn weather terms: Storm Watch - Be alert a storm is possible, and Storm Warning - Take action the storm is occurring or will soon occur in the area
- Listen to the NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and television stations or The Weather Channel for severe weather information and updates
- Be prepared to help a neighbor, friend or family member who may need special assistance
- Plan for the needs and care of your pets

Winter Weather

- Wear a hat, gloves, scarf and several layers of loose fitting clothing
- Conserve heating fuel and keep portable heaters at least 36 inches away from anything combustible
- Avoid driving on ice or snow covered roads
- Do not touch downed power lines
- Do not use an oven or range to heat your home
- Be aware of overexertion when shoveling snow
- Use heaters with “tip switches” that shut off if the unit is tipped or knocked over
- Use a glass or metal mesh fireplace screen to block sparks or embers from escaping
- Never use any fuel other than clear K-1 kerosene in a kerosene heater
- Always re-fuel kerosene heaters outside and after it has completely cooled
- Limit or avoid outside activity during bitter cold temperatures
- Seek immediate medical attention for frostbite injuries or hypothermia



Heat Wave

- Limit or avoid sun exposure from mid-morning to early evening
- Stay indoors and in air conditioning as much as possible
- Slow down and avoid strenuous activity
- Seek shade whenever possible
- Wear loose, light color, lightweight clothing, wide brim hat and sunglasses
- Drink plenty of water often, even if you don't feel thirsty
- Seek immediate medical attention for heat related health emergencies



Severe Thunderstorm

- Take shelter inside a building or car
- Do not stand near or under trees or tall objects
- Avoid using any electrical appliances or the telephone
- Avoid taking a shower or bath or running water for any other purpose
- If boating or swimming get to land immediately and seek safe shelter
- Avoid all open bodies of water such as pools, lakes, oceans, creeks or rivers
- Be alert as flash flooding is possible

Hurricanes

- Be ready to evacuate and listen to local radio or television for instructions
- Identify ahead of time where you can go if an evacuation is ordered
- Bring in lawn furniture and other objects that may be blown away
- Protect windows with storm shutters or plywood
- Keep away from windows and glass doors
- Be alert for tornados or flooding
- Do not drive through moving or standing water



Tornadoes

- Go to the basement or an inner room or hall on the lowest level of your home
- Avoid mobile homes, cars, auditoriums, cafeterias or shopping malls
- If outside and unable to get to shelter, lie in a ditch or low-lying area
- Do not attempt to out drive a tornado

Floods

- Be prepared to move your family and pets to higher ground
- Avoid streams, creeks, lakes, low lying areas and storm drains
- Do not attempt to walk or swim through flooded areas
- Keep away from downed power lines
- Never drive through moving or standing water
- If your car stalls in rising water, abandon it at once and move to higher ground

ASSEMBLE A DISASTER SUPPLY KIT THAT CONTAINS:

- Water (3 day supply) 1gallon per person per day
- Food (3 day supply) canned and no-cook foods
- Pet food, water and pet care supplies
- Manual can opener, fire extinguisher and hand tools
- First aid kit, medications and personal care items
- Battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Charged cell phone and family contact numbers
- Alternate heating source and fuel
- Blankets, sleeping bag, hat, gloves, coat and boots
- Extra changes of clothing appropriate for the season
- Paper towels, plates, utensils, trash bags and toilet paper
- Matches or lighters in secured childproof container
- Items for infants or elderly persons special needs
- Hand sanitizer, moist wipes and cleaning supplies
- Family documents, home inventory and extra cash
- Make an extra kit to keep in your car



Suggestions

- Have a safe meeting place outside of your neighborhood
- Have a "check-in contact" for all family members to call
- Review how and when to shut off utilities
- Store your kit in an accessible location
- Keep kit items in watertight containers
- Change food & water supply every 6 months
- Update your kit at least once a year



Fireworks

North Carolina law prohibits the use, possession or purchase of any type of fireworks by anyone under the age of 16!!!

- Never let young children use any fireworks and closely supervise older children who do
- Never use any illegal fireworks or explosives
- Only buy fireworks from a licensed and reputable vendor
- Follow all directions and safety warnings
- Never use any fireworks inside or near any building or structure
- Have a charged garden hose and bucket of water nearby and ready to use
- Never attempt to re-light, move or pick-up any dud fireworks
- Be sure all other people are a safe distance away
- Never point, shoot or throw fireworks at any person, animal or in a crowd
- Never light or shoot any firework in or from a glass or metal container
- Never alter any consumer fireworks or attempt to make your own
- Store fireworks in a cool dry place and secured away from children
- Listen to ushers and security personnel at public fireworks displays and do not cross safety barriers
- Leave pets at home, the loud noise will scare them



Christmas Trees

- The tree trunk should be sticky to the touch
- Bounce the tree trunk on the ground - if needles fall off it is to dry for use
- Needles on trees should be green, hard to pull back from branches and do not break
- Cut about 2 inches off the bottom of the trunk and place the tree in water
- Secure the tree in a tip resistant stand that holds water needed for the tree
- Never place Christmas trees near any heat source such as fireplaces, woodstoves, portable heaters or heat vents
- Check and fill the water reservoir several times daily and before bedtime
- If your tree becomes dry, discard it immediately
- Never burn holiday trees or branches in a fireplace or woodstove
- Only use lighting approved by an independent testing laboratory
- Make sure that artificial trees are flame retardant
- Inspect holiday lights for frayed wire, broken plugs or sockets and cracked insulation
- Follow the manufactures directions for installing and using holiday lights and decorations
- Use nonflammable decorations and never hang them from electrical or heat sources
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Never leave lit holiday lights unattended or on while you sleep
- Never use lit candles on or near any live, fresh cut or artificial tree, wreath, garland, greens or decoration
- Never burn wrapping paper in a fireplace or woodstove



Fire Extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher may put out a small fire or contain it until the fire department arrives. They are not designed to fight a large or spreading fire. ALWAYS call the fire department, even if you think the fire is out!

REMEMBER THE NUMBER 1 PRIORITY IS TO GET EVERYONE OUT SAFELY!!

Classifications of Fires



Class A Ordinary combustibles, wood, paper, cloth, plastic



Class B Flammable liquids, oils, gasoline, solvents, kerosene



Class C Energized electrical equipment, appliances, wiring



Class D Combustible metals, magnesium, potassium, sodium

- Your fire extinguisher MUST be rated for the type of fire you are attempting to put out or serious injury or rapid fire growth may occur
- Check the fire extinguisher label to find out what classes of fire it is rated for
- Check the pressure gauge to be sure the extinguisher is fully charged
- Service any extinguisher with low pressure, safety pin pulled or discharged

Never attempt to use a fire extinguisher unless:

- An alarm has been sounded and everyone is safely leaving the building
- The fire department has been called and is on the way
- The fire is small and contained in size
- The fire does not involve any hazardous or highly flammable materials
- You can fight the fire with your back to a safe escape route
- You have the right type fire extinguisher for the class of fire that's burning
- You have been trained and know how to safely use a fire extinguisher

IF THERE'S EVER ANY DOUBT ABOUT FIGHTING THE FIRE, THEN DON'T, GET OUT AND STAY OUT!!!



How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

If you are going to use a fire extinguisher remember P.A.S.S.

Pull the safety pin at the top of the extinguisher

Aim the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire from 8 to 10 feet away

Squeeze the handle and trigger mechanism

Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire

What type of Fire Extinguisher Should You Have?

Home: Select a 2-A:10-B:C multi-purpose extinguisher and mount it where it is readily accessible in a path of exit and away from the stove

Work Place: Have a fire inspector evaluate your fire protection hazards and needs

FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE CALL 911

CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Administration 704-336-4174	Fire & Life Safety Education and Juvenile Firesetters 704-336-3970
Information and Non-Emergency Communications 704-336-2441	Fire Prevention, Hydrants, and Plan Review 704-336-2101
Emergency Management 704-336-2412	SAFE Kids (car safety seats) 704-336-7233
Fire Investigation Task Force 704-336-2922	Smoke Alarm Hotline 704-336-2697

FIRE STATIONS

1 221 N. Myers St 28202 704-336-2150	20 9400 Nations Ford Rd 28273 704-525-3217
2 1817 South Bv 28203 704-336-2580	21 1023 Little Rock Rd 28214 704-399-1532
3 6512 Monroe Rd 28212 704-568-4141	22 1917 W. Sugar Creek Rd 28262 704-597-8840
4 525 N. Church St 28202 704-336-4409	23 7400 E. WT Harris Bv 28213 704-536-0331
5 224 Wesley Heights Way 28208 704-336-2499	24 7132 Pineville Matthews Rd 28226 704-542-6071
6 249 S. Laurel Av 28207 704-336-2668	25 6741 Pleasant Grove Rd 28216 704-392-8636
7 3210 N. Davidson St 28205 704-336-2851	26 9231 S. Tryon St 28273 704-588-6752
8 1201 The Plaza 28205 704-336-2152	27 111 Ken Hoffman Dr 28262 704-547-9355
9 4529 McKee Rd 28270 704-432-6874	28 8031 Old Statesville Rd 28269 704-598-6990
10 2810 Wilkinson Bv 28208 704-399-2206	29 2121 Margaret Wallace Rd 28105 704-537-9341
11 620 W. 28 th St 28206 704-336-2130	30 4707 Belle Oakes Dr 28217 704-357-3791
12 420 Inwood Dr 28209 704-523-3732	31 3820 Ridge Rd 28269 704-432-8239
13 4337 Glenwood Dr 28208 704-399-4710	32 9225 Bryant Farms Rd 28277 704-544-3975
14 114 N. Sharon Amity Rd 28211 704-364-8253	33 2001 Mt Holly Huntersville Rd 28214 704-432-0688
15 3617 Frontenac Av 28215 704-568-4484	34 2824 Rocky River Rd 28215 704-432-0935
16 6623 Park South Dr 28210 704-554-7363	35 1120 Pavilion Bv 28262 704-432-0931
17 5308 Morris Field Dr 28208 704-359-8259	36 2325 W. Mallard Creek Ch Rd 28262 704-432-1782
18 2337 Keller Av 28216 704-399-2933	37 13828 S. Tryon St 28278 704-432-3954
19 1016 Sardis Ln 28270 704-432-6170	38 12100 Shopton Rd West 28278 704-353-1275

