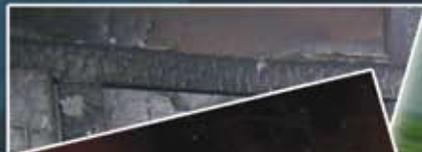


# MADISON FIRE & RESCUE



**Guide For Safe Living In Your Home**

Dear Madison Residents,

We are pleased to provide you with the Madison Fire and Rescue fire safety guide. This guide is designed to give you fast, easy access to the resources you need to keep your family and your home safe. Fires are one of the major “accidents” affecting our city residents. By taking a few precautions, you can reduce the possibility of fire in your home.

We would also like to thank the business sponsors of this guide. Their willingness to support this effort truly reflects their commitment to our community and allows the city to provide this to you at no cost.

I strongly encourage you and your family to read this book cover to cover, and I thank you for your time in doing so.

Sincerely,

Mayor Paul Finley

Dear Residents,

As the Fire Marshal for the City of Madison, I would like to personally thank you for taking the time to read this information. Within this booklet, you will find some very important information to help keep you and your family safe. Fire and Life Safety efforts are very important to us and we strive to educate the citizens of Madison on ways to prevent and reduce the number of emergency incidents within this city. If you have ever been involved in a fire, natural disaster, or other emergency, you know the devastating effects that these events can have on individuals and families, if you have not, please take this information seriously and apply it to your daily life.

This booklet was designed specifically for the citizens of Madison who reside in single family dwellings. The City is currently facing a 40% increase in the number of fires annually. With 83% of these fires being residential structure fires, the need for Fire and Life Safety Education is greatly increasing. I encourage you to use this information and become proactive in preventing fires in your homes. Together, we can all make living in Madison safer and reduce the adverse effects that disasters can place on Citizens.

Cary Sadler, Fire Marshal

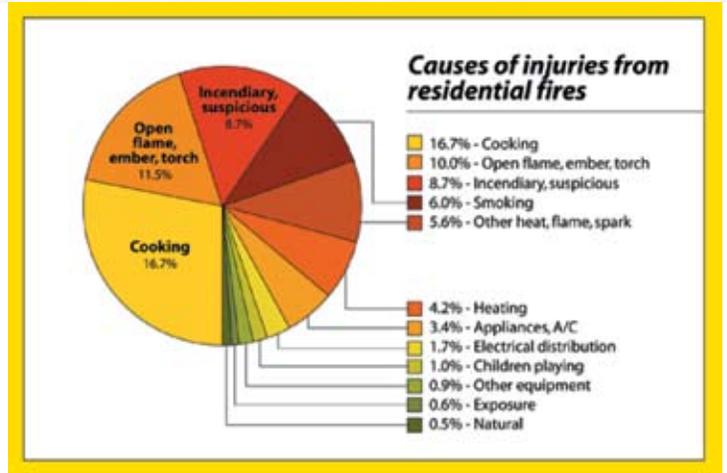
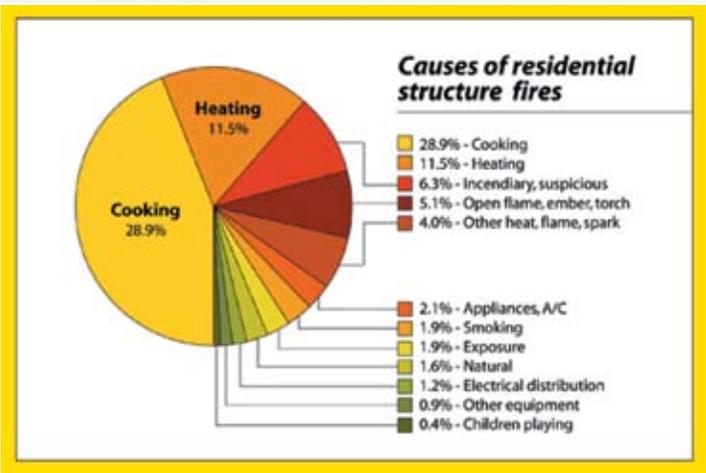
## **FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE CONTACT INFO**

**CITY OF MADISON  
FIRE & RESCUE  
Station 1 - 101 Mill Rd.  
Madison, AL 35758  
256.772.3326  
EMERGENCY - 9.1.1.**

**FIRE MARSHAL/INVESTIGATOR  
Cary Sadler 256.464.8425  
cary.sadler@madisonal.gov  
FIRE INSPECTOR/INVESTIGATOR  
Will Smith 256.464.8423  
will.smith@madisonal.gov**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Kitchen Fire Safety	Page 3
Smoke Detectors	Page 4
Fire Extinguishers	Page 5 - 6
The Dangers of Fireworks	Page 7
Fireplaces & Chimneys	Page 8
Space Heater Hazards	Page 8
Home Escape Plans & Fire Drills	Page 9 - 10
Dryer Fires	Page 11
Candle Precautions	Page 12
Electrical Tips For a Safer Home	Page 13
Outdoor Grilling & Frying	Page 14
Weather Preparedness	Page 15-18
Quick Tips for <b>Fire Emergencies</b>	Back Cover
Quick Tips For <b>Medical Emergencies</b>	Back Cover



Cooking is the leading cause of fire & civilian injuries in the U.S. In 2004, there were 395,500 reported home fires, resulting in 3,190 deaths, 13,700 injuries and \$5,833,000,000 in direct property damages.



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# KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

With all that goes on in our lives, it's very easy to forget that you placed that pan on the stove. It's a very common mistake. You put something on the stove to cook. Then you get sidetracked. You forget about it until the fire starts and the smoke alarm goes off. If you're still home, you *may* have time to react. But if you've left the house and the pan is still on the stove, you may not find out about it until you return. By then, if you're lucky, your neighbors have noticed your home is on fire and called the fire department!

The types of fires you might expect in the kitchen ... and what to do about them:

## Dry Cooking Fires

The most common type of cooking fire is the dry cooking fire. The water or moisture boils out of the pan and the food left in the pan scorches, producing smoke. This usually doesn't cause a great deal of damage. The heat may sometimes damage the surrounding area. The smoke may leave a residue and an odor. Hopefully a little cleaning up is all it takes.

## Grease Fires

The grease fire occurs when oil or grease type foods are heated and ignite. A grease fire can do significant damage. Open flames can extend to surrounding cabinets or other combustible items. If unnoticed, a grease fire can extend to a major home fire, engulfing the entire kitchen, adjacent rooms or even the attic. This becomes a dangerous life-threatening fire.

## Oven Fires

The fire is usually contained in the oven, which is designed for high heat anyway. The oven fire usually suffocates or is easily extinguished if the door is kept closed.

## What to do if there is a kitchen fire

- In all cases, make sure everyone evacuates the home.
- Call **911** and report the fire.
- If the fire is still very small, you can use a fire extinguisher to try and put it out. But if the fire gets out of control, get out of the house and wait for the fire department to arrive.

You might be able to extinguish a grease fire on the stove in several different ways. The simplest way is to place a lid on the pan (with an oven mitt to protect your hand) and the fire should suffocate. A large amount of baking soda can also be used to extinguish a grease fire. Once you have the fire extinguished, don't forget to turn off the burner. But if the flames are too high, don't risk getting burned.

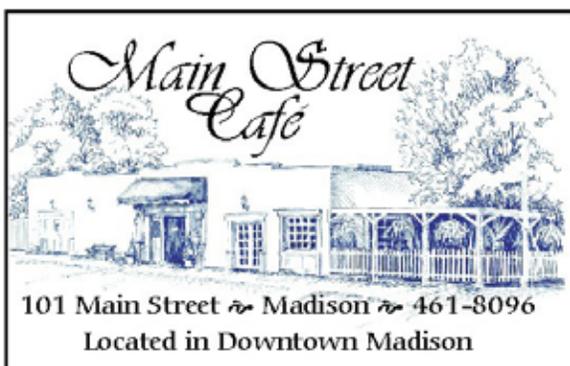
***Get out and call the fire department!***

***Never, Never put water on a grease fire!*** Water will splatter the grease and dramatically increase the size of the fire. You will easily get burned! NEVER try to carry a flaming grease fire outside. It will quickly be too hot to carry and you will certainly spread the fire over the entire area.

And remember, *always* keeps cooking areas **clean** (grease, residue) and **clear** of combustibles (potholders, towels, rags, food packaging, plastic containers, etc.).

***A pair of these can help prevent stove top fires!!***

Contact us for more information on these handy little units that fit underneath your stove hood or installed microwave. If you are distracted and a pan fire occurs, a loud POP will alert you while the canisters spread a harmless powder on the fire. They have saved MANY lives, homes & apartments!



# SMOKE ALARMS

Roughly 70 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are the great safety success story of the 20th century — but only when they're working properly.

## Who Should Have Smoke Alarms?

Every home should have at least one smoke alarm. In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save lives. A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm will provide an early warning signal to your household providing the chance to escape.

## Where Do I Install My Smoke Alarms?

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside any sleeping areas. Smoke alarms are not hard to install. In most cases, all you will need is a screwdriver. Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, install your smoke alarms 6 to 8 inches from the ceiling or side walls.

## How Do I Keep Them Working?

There are two simple steps to remember when caring for your smoke alarms.

1. Replace the batteries at least once a year, though it is highly recommended that you change them when you change your clocks during the spring and fall. 10-year lithium battery smoke detectors are great in that you do not have to worry about annual replacement. Also test your alarm once a month.
2. Keep them clean. Dust and debris can interfere with how smoke alarms work. Regularly vacuum over your smoke alarm to keep it working right.

## What's Chirping?

The "chirping" noise lets you know that the battery in your smoke alarm needs to be replaced.

## What If the Alarm Goes Off While I Am Cooking?

Then it is doing its job. Do not disable your smoke alarm if it activates due to cooking or other non-fire causes. You may not remember to put the batteries back in the alarm after cooking. Instead, clear the air by waving a towel near the alarm, leaving the batteries in place.

## When Do I Need to Replace My Smoke Alarms?

Smoke alarms should function properly for seven to ten years. Like most electrical appliances, smoke alarms wear out. After ten years your smoke alarm will have been working for over 87,000 continuous hours. At 15 years, there is a 50 - 75% chance your detector will fail. You may want to write the purchase date with a marker on the back of your smoke alarm. That way you will know when it should be replaced.

## Latest Statistics on Alarms are Alarming . . .

Recent national research has shown that only 58% of children under the age of 15 are waking up to traditional smoke detectors. Findings conducted by families of our own City firefighters during the time of this publication are shockingly showing us a less percentage than this. This tells us that most of the time parents are being heavily relied upon for waking up their kids to escape. There are very many successful studies showing that the "KidSmart" vocal smoke detector has a near 100% success rate. You can find this unit on websites such as Amazon for around \$20. Please contact us for more information.

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# FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - Choosing, Using & Maintenance

A fire extinguisher is an absolute necessity in any home or office. While there's a good chance that the extinguisher will never be used to fight a fire, it could end up saving your property and even your life.

It is highly recommended that you install a 2-A: 10-B:C (5lb. or more) fire extinguisher at *minimum*. After 6 years, they should be inspected for chemical & bottle defects. *Always* follow manufacturer's instructions and warnings!

## Types of Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are rated by the type of fire they can put out. It is important to choose the proper fire extinguisher for each fire. Fire extinguishers are labeled with letters and/or pictures to indicate the type of fire on which the extinguisher is effective.

### Ordinary Combustibles Fire

**A**

paper, wood,  
plastics, fabric,  
rubber, trash



### Flammable Liquids Fire

**B**

gasoline, oil,  
grease, some  
paints and solvents



### Electrical Fire

**C**

energized electrical equipment,  
appliances, computers, circuit  
breakers, wiring



A combination **ABC Dry Chemical** extinguisher can be used on more than one type of fire, and is a good choice for home use.



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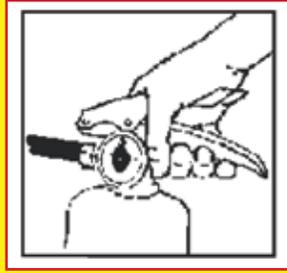
- Fire Extinguishers
- Security Systems
- 24 hr Monitoring
- Fire Alarms
- Sprinkler Systems
- Restaurant Systems
- Suppression Systems
- Access Control

# Remember the **P.A.S.S.** Word

There are four basic steps to using a fire extinguisher.



**PULL**



**SQUEEZE**



**SWEEP**

## **Pull**

Place the extinguisher on the floor. Hold it by the tank (pressure on the handle could pinch the pin). Pull the pin straight out.

## **Aim**

Start 10 feet back from the fire. Aim at the base of the fire.

## **Squeeze**

Squeeze the lever on the fire extinguisher.

## **Sweep**

Sweep from side to side, moving in slowly until the fire is out.

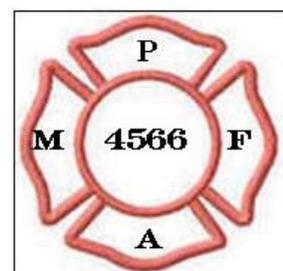
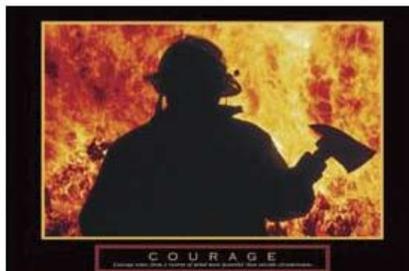
## **Get Out**

If the fire gets bigger, close the door and evacuate.

## **Be Prepared**

Training and practice are the best ways to prepare for emergencies. Make certain you know the P.A.S.S. system and understand how to safely use a fire extinguisher before you ever need to.

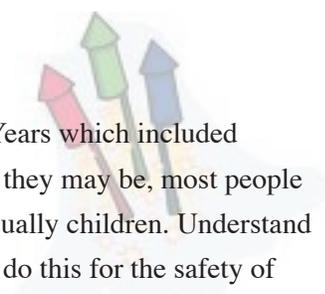
- Don't force yourself to fight a fire that makes you uncomfortable or puts you at risk.
- Always let someone know and make certain 911 has been called before using an extinguisher on a fire.
- Fire extinguishers are small quick fixes. If you are unable to put out the fire with one extinguisher, leave and close the door behind you.
- A fire involving any portion of building structure is too big for a portable fire extinguisher.
- While using a fire extinguisher stay low, the smoke is filled with carbon monoxide and many other toxic gases.
- Don't let the fire come between you and your exit. Keep your back to the exit and the fire in front of you.



**MADISON PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION - LOCAL 4566**

# Fireworks: Fun but Frightening Facts

Most of us have grown up with fond memories of events celebrating the 4th of July and New Years which included spectacular fireworks shows created by the adults of our family's. As attractive and exciting as they may be, most people do not realize the personal harm and dangers that can be an end result. Sadly the victims are usually children. Understand that in the City of Madison the sales, possession and discharge of fireworks are prohibited. We do this for the safety of our citizen's, their neighbors, and their properties. This is the reason why the City sponsors pyrotechnic professionals to handle public display events every year so that everyone can enjoy a good show without having to worry about the safety risk. Parents need to be especially vigilant during these periods in assuring that children do not possess or handle dangerous fireworks!

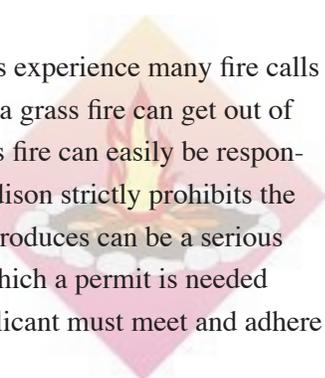


## The Eye Opening Facts:

- A staggering 9,300 persons are injured every year from fireworks, as reported by hospitals. Nearly half of these injuries are to the head. Approximately 10 people a year are killed.
- 45% of the reported injuries involved **children under 15 years old.**
- Annually, firecrackers are responsible for 1,600 injuries and sparklers injure another 700 people.
- **Over 700 children under 5 years old are injured, 57% of this is from sparklers.**
- Sparklers alone burn at temperatures of approximately 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Fireworks cause an annual average of 1,800 house/building fires, 700 vehicle fires, and over \$39 million dollars in property damage.

# Madison Outdoor Burn Policy

Fireworks have been notorious for starting lawn fires. Besides structures, most fire departments experience many fire calls every year due to fireworks igniting a bush, tree, or grass. Most people do not realize how fast a grass fire can get out of hand and quickly spread affecting not only their own property, but also their neighbors. A grass fire can easily be responsible for burning down a home, especially during ideal conditions. This is why the City of Madison strictly prohibits the burning of leaves, limbs, grass, and any other yard debris or trash. Also, the smoke that a fire produces can be a serious health nuisance to others in the area. Only approved organizational campfires are allowed in which a permit is needed through the Fire Marshal's office. This is so that the site can be properly inspected and the applicant must meet and adhere to certain fire safety criteria as part of the approval process.



Contact the City of Madison Public Works department @ 772-0000 for questions concerning tree and yard debris pick-up times and requirements.

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# Fireplace & Space Heater Hazards

Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. In our own City we experienced 3 separate chimney fires in the winter of 2007 which heavily damaged a new home, a 10 year, and a 30 year old home. This trend shows that no one is immune.

## What can I do as a home owner?

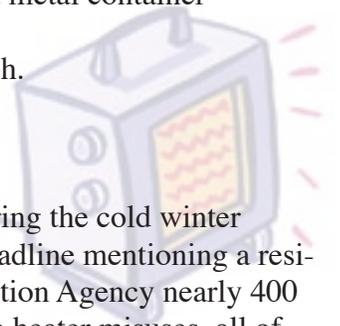
This answer is simple. Have your chimney or wood stove annually inspected for cracks, flue clearances, and professionally cleaned by a certified chimney specialist (licensed chimney sweep). Creosote accumulation is the leading cause of chimney and roof fires. A chimney that is dirty, blocked, or in disrepair can inhibit proper venting of smoke up the flue and can also start a house fire.

### Preventive tips:

- Clear the area around the chimney of debris, decorations and other flammable materials.
- Always use a heavy metal mesh screen. Leave glass fireplace doors open while burning.
- Check to make sure the damper is open before starting the fire.
- NEVER burn trash, cardboard, paper, or green wood. This can cause heavy creosote buildup and are difficult to control. You should only burn well seasoned hardwood.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house.
- To prevent lethal carbon monoxide never burn charcoal, never close the damper while there are still hot ashes, and never break synthetic logs apart. A Carbon monoxide detector is encouraged.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near a home. Place cooled ashes in a sealed metal container outside and away from the home or other structures.
- ALWAYS have a 5 pound (minimum) ABC type fire extinguisher within reach.

## Space Heaters – ALWAYS BE CAUTIOUS !!

There is no doubt that a space heater can help make your home more comfortable during the cold winter months. However, keep in mind their proper use. Nearly every day there is a news headline mentioning a residential fire tragedy caused by a portable heater. According to the National Fire Protection Agency nearly 400 home residents died and over 10,000 homes were affected in 2006 as a result of space heater misuses, all of which could have very well been preventable. DO NOT BECOME A STATISTIC!



- Buy only if Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved. Always check for recalls!
- Keep combustibles such as curtains, furniture, clothes or paper at least 3 feet away from units.
- Make sure there is an automatic “tip switch” that shuts the unit off if knocked over.
- Turn off before falling asleep, and NEVER let kids or pets play too close, units can easily be knocked over.
- NEVER use with an extension cord, a unit can easily overheat and burn an under rated cord.
- Always use a level non-combustible surface, Never place on carpets.
- NEVER fill a kerosene heater with gasoline or camp stove fuel. K-1 kerosene fuel only!

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# ESCAPE FOR YOUR L.I.F.E. !!



**Every 15 seconds** a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States. Most fires don't happen in homes. But most fire deaths and injuries do. The major causes of fatal home fires are misplaced smoking materials, heating equipment, arson and children playing with matches or lighters.

The United States and Canada have the highest fire death rates of any industrialized countries. Why? Our buildings are built to high standards and our fire departments are among the best in the world. The problem is people, and their lack of awareness about the importance of making fire safety a part of their everyday lives.

## How long do you have to escape from a fire in your home?

When people were asked this question in a recent survey, they answered in ways that were surprising. Fifty eight percent said two minutes or more. Twenty four percent estimated they had more than 10 minutes to escape a home fire.

The truth is, you may have much less time to escape than you think. A typical living room fire can threaten the entire house in just moments—producing life threatening conditions in nearby bedrooms less than two minutes after the smoke alarm sounds. Your family needs to know how to get out at the first sign of a home fire.

## *Don't wait, plan your escape today*

Every family should have a fire escape plan. Include everyone in the planning process. Draw your plan, marking two ways out of every room. Include windows. Pick a meeting place outside, well away from the building. Tell everyone to meet there after they've escaped. That way you can count heads and tell the fire department if anyone's trapped inside. Don't forget to call the fire department from a safe location.

## Practice your plan

Plans are great, but the only way to know if they work is to practice them. Hold a home fire drill. Getting out of your own home sounds easy, but your home can look very different if it's full of smoke. Children in particular need to practice. Children practice drills at school every month, but rarely at home. But fires are far more likely to happen at home.

Have someone press the button on the smoke alarm as the signal for the drill to start. Get out quickly, but carefully. Everyone should go to the meeting place.

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# FIRE DRILL CHECK LIST



- ✓ The escape plan has been discussed with all family members.
- ✓ Start the drill with everyone in their room, pretending to be asleep.
- ✓ Signal the start of the drill by sounding the smoke alarm. It is especially important for children to recognize the sound of the smoke alarm so they will react appropriately when they hear it.
- ✓ Practice using your main escape routes first. Don't run. Just go quickly and calmly outside and to the meeting place.
- ✓ The family meeting place is located safely away from the building and out of the way of the arriving fire department.
- ✓ Everyone arrives at the family meeting place in under two minutes.
- ✓ Someone pretends to go call 911 for help. They know what information to give the 911 dispatcher.

## Tips for a safe escape

- 1 If you see smoke, try another way out. If you can't avoid the smoke, crawl under it on your hands and knees.
- 2 Test doors before you open them. If you touch the door and it is warm, use another escape route. If the door is cool, open it cautiously.
- 3 Do security bars on windows have quick-release devices? Bars need to be opened easily and quickly from the inside by everyone in the household. Make sure to practice opening them.
- 4 Don't stop or go back for anything. Possessions can be replaced. You can't. Remember fire spreads quickly. Get out fast and stay out. Call the fire department as quickly as possible.

# ESCAPE LADDERS

Bedrooms above the ground floor may need a fire escape ladder. One of the most important features of a home fire escape ladder is the presence of standoffs. These are protrusions that hold the ladder rungs away from the side of the house. Standoffs help steady the ladder and allow enough room for a secure toehold. The more standoffs on a ladder the better.

Home escape ladders come in two standard lengths—15 feet and 25 feet. The shorter length is adequate for most two story bedrooms, while the longer is used for three story rooms. Make sure that the ladder is easily deployed by the person who will use it. Also check for the load limit. Ladders should be rated for at least 1,000 pounds.

## Where to get them

Local hardware and home improvement stores carry escape ladders. Check by calling around to see who is currently carrying them. Another source are safety supply stores. Look for them in the yellow pages under safety equipment.

## How to use them

Portable ladders work somewhat like a boat ladder. They are generally made from aluminum or plastic chain with rigid bars as the rungs of the ladder. After purchasing a ladder, make sure that it fits the specific window for which its intended. If the ladder is for a child's room, have the child practice putting the ladder out the window. Then have them practice climbing out, but do this from a first floor window. Do this as part of a family fire drill.

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# Facts & Tips about Dryer Fires

Annually, there is a national average of nearly 13,000 residential fires from dryers resulting in approximately 15 deaths & 300 injuries. Avoid this! Here is what you can do:

- Failure to clean accounts for 70% of dryer fires. The accumulation of lint, both in the drum and vent tube, reduces the airflow and can create a highly flammable situation. Clean regularly!
- Exhaust vent pipe/tubing should be as short as possible (6 feet or less). Bends should be limited. UL listed aluminum or steel duct flex hose is recommended, NOT plastic or white vinyl hose.
- NEVER let your clothes dryer run while you are out of the house or asleep.
- Wash clothes or towels that contain car oils, grease, paint, and vegetable/cooking oils at least 3 times before placing in dryer. Remnants still remain after one wash and can be very flammable.
- Never place anything made of plastics, foam or rubber in the dryer. Low temperatures can ignite.
- Overloading a dryer puts a strain on your machine which can lead to a dryer belt fire.
- Always check for recalls no matter how old or new.

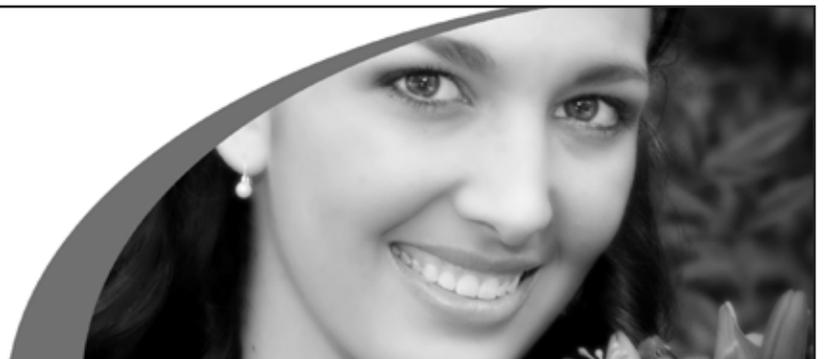


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# CANDLE SAFETY

Candles have become a popular decoration in our homes. The wide variety of colors shapes and scents have helped candle sales become a several billion dollar a year industry. Each year, candle misuse causes approximately 23,600 residential fires in the United States and results in \$390 million in damage.

## A Growing Concern

The growing number of candle fires are a concern for fire departments across the country. The number of home fires caused by candles has been soaring in recent years and jumped a startling 20 percent from 1998 to 1999 according to the National Fire Protection Association. How does such a little flame become so dangerous? Misuse. Candle fire most commonly occur when the candles are left unattended or something that catches fire easily is left too close to the flame.

## Rules To Follow

Follow these basic rules to prevent a fire from starting in your home:

- \_\_\_ Always keep burning candles within sight. Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or before going to sleep.
- \_\_\_ Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use. The holder should be heat resistant, sturdy and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax.
- \_\_\_ Place lighted candles where they won't be knocked over by children, pets or anyone else.
- \_\_\_ Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, flammable decorations, etc.
- \_\_\_ Read and carefully follow all manufacturer instructions. Do not burn a candle longer than the manufacturer recommends.
- \_\_\_ Extinguish pillar and taper candles when they burn to within two inches of the holder. Discontinue burning votive and container candles before the last half inch of wax melts.



*Remember, even with these safety features, prevention is still the best strategy!  
Stop fires before they start.*

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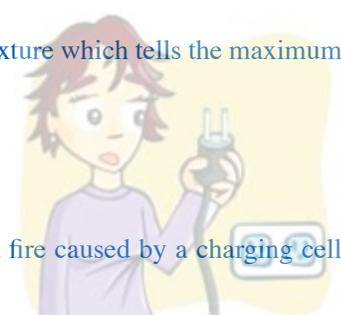
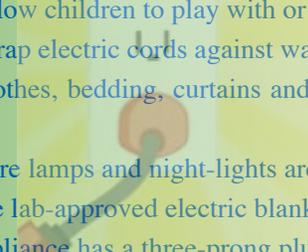
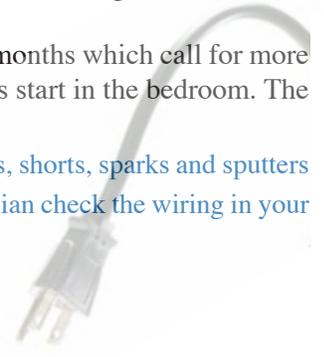
# ELECTRICAL FIRES

Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 485 Americans each year and injure 2,305 more. Some of these fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects, but many more are caused by the misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.

Most electrical fires result from problems with “fixed wiring” such as faulty electrical outlets and old wiring. Problems with cords and plugs, such as extension and appliance cords, also cause many home electrical fires.

December is the most dangerous month for electrical fires. Fire deaths are highest in winter months which call for more indoor activities and increases in lighting, heating, and appliance use. Most electrical wiring fires start in the bedroom. The following safety precautions will help you prevent an electrical fire in your home:

- When using appliances, follow the manufacturer’s safety precautions. Overheating, unusual smells, shorts, sparks and sputters are all warning signs that appliances need to be shut off, then replaced or repaired. Have an electrician check the wiring in your house. Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.
- Never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Never use extension cords as a permanent source, made for temporary only.
- Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Use safety closures to “child-proof” electrical outlets.
- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old, or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- When buying electrical appliances, look for products which meet the UL standard for safety.
- Don’t allow children to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons and hair dryers.
- Do not trap electric cords against walls or corners where heat can build up.
- Keep clothes, bedding, curtains and other potentially combustible items at least 3 feet from all warming heaters and water heaters.
- Make sure lamps and night-lights are not touching bedspreads, curtains, or other fabrics.
- Only use lab-approved electric blankets and warmers. Check to make sure the cords are not frayed.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two slot outlet or extension cord.
- Check your electrical tools regularly for signs of wear. If the cords are frayed or cracked, replace them. Replace any tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Do not use light bulb wattage which is too high for the fixture. Look for the label inside each fixture which tells the maximum wattage.
- Coffee makers and toaster ovens should have an automatic shut-off or timer.
- Power strips should not be plugged into other power strips. This can cause a serious overload.
- Plug wall adapters are strongly discouraged due to the ease of overloading.
- Be cautious of chargers and batteries overheating. Just recently we experienced an apartment fire caused by a charging cell phone overheating.



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# OUTDOOR GRILL & FRYER SAFETY

With more people using barbecue grills than ever before, it is important to always remember that anytime you work with fire there is a chance of getting burned. Keep safety in mind when setting up, using and cleaning up after an outdoor grill.

## Setting Up

Always read the owner's manual before using your grill and follow the assembly guidelines and safety procedures.

- Barbecue grills are designed for outdoor use only. Never barbecue in an enclosed area because carbon monoxide can accumulate and kill you.
- Set-up your grill in an open area at least 10 feet away from buildings, overhead combustible surfaces, wooden decks, and dry leaves or other vegetation. Heat from flames can ignite sources just as easily!
- Before using your grill make sure all parts are firmly in place and the grill is on a flat surface.

## Fueling

For those who want to barbecue, regardless of whether they are in a private home, apartment or condominium, the Madison Fire Department recommends the use of one-pound propane cylinders as the least hazardous fuel source.

Inspect your propane grill to make certain all connections are tight before turning on the gas. Spray soapy water on all gas connections and supply lines. If you see soapy bubbles, turn off the tank and try reconnecting or have the leaking fuel lines repaired before using. If you have a charcoal grill, purchase and use the proper starter fluid as recommended by the manufacturer. Apply starter fluid directly to the coals and let it soak into the coals for a minute before lighting. If the coals start to die out fan them to feed the flame. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire.

## During Use

From the time you light the barbecue until you are finished cooking, stay with your fire.

- Do not leave starter fluid, lighters or matches within the reach of children.
- Use the proper tools. Long handled barbecue utensils and flame retardant mitts will prevent burns from heat and flame.

## Cleaning Up

Keep an eye on the grill, even after you have finished cooking.

- When finished using your propane barbecue always make sure that you not only turn off the barbecue but shut off the propane cylinder too.
- Allow coals to cool for 48 hours before disposing. If you are not able to wait, douse coals with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place coals in plastic, paper or wooden containers, only metal.



## The Dangers of Deep Frying

- Follow the same guidelines as for grill placement
- **ALWAYS** make sure a turkey is completely thawed. **THIS CAN CAUSE AN EXPLOSION!!**
- Never let kids or pets play around a fryer, if knocked over the oil can cause serious burns or fire
- As with a grill or cooker, **NEVER** leave unattended!

  
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# WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

It is extremely important that you prepare yourself, family and even your neighbors for disasters. The Madison Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal's office offers you the following information on apartment disaster preparedness. The main disaster threat in this area is tornadoes.

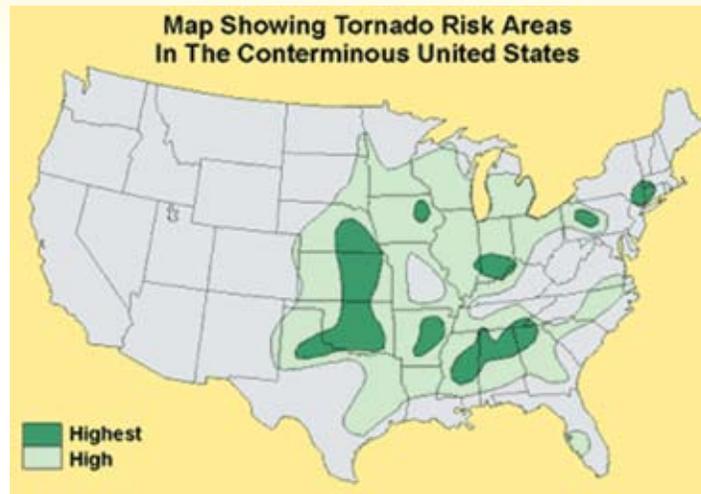


## Tornado Safety Tips

### • *Facts and Figures*

Tornadoes are one of nature's most violent storms. Tornadoes come in all shapes and sizes and can occur anywhere in the United States and at any time of year. The Northern Alabama area may see tornadoes any month of the year, but the most significant time of year is the April and May time frame and again around the November time frame. Tornadoes are always born out of severe thunderstorms. They can be stationary or travel at speeds up to 70 mph. When they are moving, they generally tend to travel from southwest to northeast and could be on the ground for over an hour traveling many miles.

In an average year, 800 tornadoes are reported across the United States, resulting in 80 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. Here is a chart of most likely areas to see tornadoes.



### • *Being Prepared*

Madison Fire and Rescue encourages home residents to map out a tornado safety plan. Preparing yourself now, by knowing a few facts and simple safety rules can keep you and your family safe.

### • *What You Can Do*

When preparing for tornadoes, the most important step is to find safe shelter. The general rule for tornado safety is to “*go low and get low*”. In other words, you should go to the lowest level of the structure you are in, away from windows; crouch in a low position, protecting your head.

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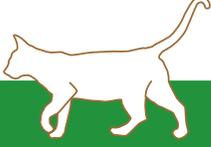
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## • *Watches and Warnings*

When severe thunderstorms threaten, you should watch the sky and pay close attention to weather advisories and understand what they mean. Environmental clues that may indicate an approaching tornado include a dark, often greenish sky, large hail and a loud roar similar to a freight train. To alert the public of tornadoes, the National Weather Service issues tornado *watches and warnings*.

- A **tornado watch** means that weather conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes. If a tornado watch is broadcast, stay tuned for further advisories and be prepared to take cover.
- If a **tornado warning** is issued, it means a tornado has actually been sighted. Warnings are issued for individual counties and include the tornado's location and its direction and speed. If you are in or near its path, seek shelter immediately. Do not attempt to look for the tornado. Many tornadoes in Northern Alabama are obscured by rain and are not visible at all or are not visible until it is too late.

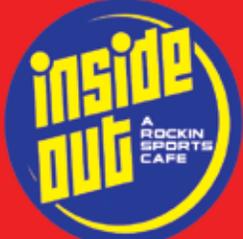
The City of Madison also has 14 Weather sirens. In the event a Tornado Warning is issued for the county by the National Weather Service, the tornado sirens are activated. Please be aware that you may not hear the sirens if you are inside. The sirens are intended to be heard outside. If you live close enough to a siren, you may hear it from inside.

## • *Safety Tips*

Knowing simple safety rules and taking immediate action can save your life. The following safety tips are offered by Madison Fire and Rescue. Go to an inside room without windows on the lowest level of the apartment (a closet, bathroom or interior hall). Protect your body from flying debris with a heavy blankets, sleeping bags or pillows.

- Avoid windows. Opening windows to equalize pressure is ineffective in reducing damage during a tornado. Don't worry about the windows; worry about finding shelter and protecting yourself.
- Upstairs in a house is unsafe move to the lowest level immediately
- If there is no time to go anywhere else, seek shelter right where you are. Try to get up against something that will support or deflect falling debris. Protect your head by covering it with your arms.
- If you are outside when a tornado strikes, try to find shelter immediately in the nearest substantial building. If no buildings are close, take cover by lying down flat in a ditch or depression.
- Know the names of the counties, cities and towns that are near you, especially those to the west and south. You will be better able to track the tornado's direction if you are familiar with the geography of your area.
- Communication Plan: Make an out-of-state relative or a friend as your "emergency family contact". By only calling a single person after a tornado it helps local phone systems from crashing. Make sure that everybody in the family knows the name, address, and contact number of that person. This may be especially helpful if any of the members are separated from the family during the tornado/disaster. It is a real possibility because adults may be at home/office and children may be in school.

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## *NOAA Weather Radio*

The National Weather Service issues warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazardous information 24/7 hours and alerts you of the incoming danger on the NOAA weather radio. The broadcasts are provided as a public service by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). You are seriously encouraged to obtain one which may be purchased at a department store or electronics stores. Below is a NOAA Weather radio. There are many types and styles you can purchase. You can purchase these radios that are programmable for county specific.

## *Tornado Disaster Safety Kit*

As part of your preparedness, it is good to assemble a tornado/disaster safety kit and keep it in the shelter area. The disaster safety kit should include supplies such as:

- A first aid kit with essential medication
- A portable battery operated radio with extra batteries
- A flashlight and extra batteries
- Emergency food: canned or other non-perishable items
- Hand operated can opener
- Bottled water
- Candles and matches
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves
- Written instructions on how to turn off your home utilities
- Cash and credit cards



## *Other Weather Preparedness*

**Winter Storms** are another weather threat here in North Alabama. Ice storms and snow storms can occur here in North Alabama. Every year the area averages 2 or 3 threats of a winter storm. Be prepared if a winter storm takes out power to your apartment, prevents you from traveling and possibly even making contact outside your home. Make sure you have enough food and water in your home and have plenty of extra blankets to keep warm. Follow local weather reports before the storm so you can obtain the proper supplies. Check on neighbors in your complex to make sure they are alright, especially the elderly.

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## Disaster Emergency Preparedness

The first 72 hours after a disaster (such as a tornado or winter storm) are critical. Electricity, gas, water and telephones may not be working. In addition, public safety services such as police and fire departments will be busy handling serious crisis. You should be prepared to be self-sufficient (able to live without running water, electricity and or gas and telephones) for at least three days or longer following a natural disaster. To do so keep on hand the following:

### Disaster Supply Kit

- **Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- **Food** - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
  - non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
  - foods for infants or the elderly
  - snack foods
  - non-electric can opener
  - cooking tools / fuel
  - paper plates / plastic utensils
- **Blankets / Pillows, etc.**
- **Clothing** - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**
- **Special Items** - for babies and the elderly
- **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**
- **Flashlight / Batteries**
- **Radio** - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- **Telephones** - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- **Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards** - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- **Keys**
- **Toys, Books and Games**
- **Important documents** - in a waterproof container or watertight reusable plastic bag
  - insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- **Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm



### Vehicle fuel tanks filled



### Pet care items

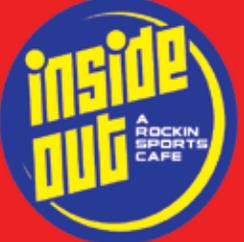
- proper identification / immunization records / medications
- ample supply of food and water
- a carrier or cage
- muzzle and leash

You need to locate an area of your residents to store your preparedness supply kit. The best place would be the area you will evacuate to during a disaster. Plastic storage bins with covers are the best ways to store your supplies. Make sure you use non-perishable food items in the supply kit. Every 6 months you may want to check the expiration dates of the food and water and replace them when necessary.

For weather related questions or information please contact our Emergency Operations Manager.

David Glassman Phone: 256.772.5692 E-mail: david.glassman@madisonal.gov

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# What to Do if There's a Fire

- Get out of the house.
- Once out – **STAY OUT! Do not go back in for ANY reason, including pets.**
- Stay calm and call 9-1-1 from a safe location.
- Give the dispatcher as much accurate information as you can.
- Use your fire escape plan. Go to the designated family meeting place.
- Try to let neighbors know to get out. Help elderly folks or families who have many children.
- Have someone meet the fire trucks when they arrive, if it can be done safely.
- Keep the fire lanes open, remember this when your friends visit.
- If you cannot get out, use a cellular phone to stay in touch with 9-1-1 dispatchers. Shine a flashlight or wave a sheet out the window to alert firefighters that you're trapped.

## Medical Emergencies

When calling 9-1-1 keep in mind that the most important thing you can do is to **LISTEN CAREFULLY** and **DO EXACTLY** what the dispatcher asks you to do. Paramedics on a fire engine will also be responding along with the ambulance.

- Have visible house numbers posted – this is vital for quick response
- Stay calm. When calling 9-1-1, **DO NOT HANG UP** until told to do so!
- Make sure children know how to dial for help, including cell phones
- Leave a porch light on or have someone flag down responders
- Do not move the patient if possible
- Make sure the patient is as comfortable as possible
- Gather all medications or have an up-to-date list on hand
- Have medical history and information available if possible
- Please secure pets, time and safety is valuable in an emergency
- Move all furniture or obstacles out of the way for crew & equipment
- Oxygen is used on many calls, smoking items need to be put out
- It is always good to know how to do CPR. The life you save could be a loved one. Madison Fire & Rescue offers our community American Heart Association Heartsaver AED CPR classes monthly on 1st & 3rd Saturdays. Certification is good for 2 years. Call 772-5692 for info.



## *Our Family Helping Your Family*

For more information about fire safety, call the City of Madison Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Department @ 256-464-8423.

	<b>Steven B. Raney</b> <i>President</i>	
<i>Fire Protection</i>		<i>Systems &amp; Equipment</i>
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