



MOORE

FROM THE HILL

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October is National Fire Prevention Month. I would like to offer a few tips for preventing fires and some procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

Prevent fires caused by cooking:

Always keep things that can burn (such as curtains and dishtowels) at least three feet away from stovetop. Always stay in the kitchen while cooking, do not walk off and leave cooking food unattended. Know how to put out a small pan fire by sliding a lid over the flames. If grilling, make a “no play zone” to keep children out of harm’s way. Keep grill at least 10 feet away from your house, shrubs or other objects.

Prevent fires caused by heating:

Keep space heaters away from flammable objects such as curtains, magazines/newspapers or furniture. Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed. Buy only heaters evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Check to make sure it has a thermostat control mechanism, and will switch off automatically if the heater falls over. Heaters are not dryers or tables; don't dry clothes or store objects on top of your heater. Have chimneys, fireplaces, wood or coal stoves and central furnaces checked once a year and cleaned when necessary.

Prevent fires caused by smoking:

Douse cigarette butts with water before dumping in the trash, use fire-safe/self extinguishing cigarettes and smoke outside.

Prevent fires when using candles:

Use stable candle holders that are made from material that will not catch fire. Never leave burning candles unattended and do not allow children to use candles or incense without supervision.

Prevent fires by using electricity safely:

Avoid using extension cords whenever possible, and never run extension cords under rugs or carpet. Replace any frayed or cracked cords and never tamper with fuse box or use improper size fuses. If any electrical appliance smokes or has an unusual odor, unplug it immediately and do not use until it is checked out.

Prevent fires when using gasoline and flammable products:

Store gasoline in a shed or garage away from the house. Use an approved gasoline storage container. Never bring gasoline indoors, and never use it for anything other than a motor fuel. Keep lids shut.

Keeping your family safe:

Install smoke alarms on each level of your home. Test monthly, and install new batteries once a year. Have fire extinguishers and know how to use them. Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

Make an escape plan and pick a meeting place outside. Your escape plan should include two ways out of each room, someone assigned to help those who need help to get out (babies, children or elderly) and someone assigned to call 911. Make sure every family member knows the plan and make sure all windows and doors can be easily opened. Hold a family fire drill twice each year. If you have a fire, get out and stay out. Do not go back into the house. If necessary, crawl low under the smoke. Feel doors for heat before opening. Teach everyone to “stop, drop and roll” if clothes catch fire.

Since this is National Fire Prevention month, this is a great time to change your smoke detector batteries and conduct a fire drill with your family. I strongly encourage you to do so.

Much of this information came from the United States Fire Administration. You may access this and more at www.usfa.dhs.gov/

As always, please let me know if I may assist you with any matter. My door is open and I welcome your calls and visits.

Gary

The information contained herein is not given as legal or professional advice, rather for informational purposes only.