



# Smoke Signals

## A Life Safety Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2010



### City of Dallas

#### Hot Weather Safety:



Heat is a way of life in Texas. Remember these tips for staying cool outside and safe this summer:

- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol.
- Wear loose fitting, light weight, light colored clothing.
- Wear sunscreen and a wide brimmed hat.
- Do not leave children or pets in vehicles with windows up. Temperatures inside a closed vehicle can reach 140 degrees within minutes.
- Avoid going out during the hottest time of day. If you must work outdoors, take frequent breaks.

#### Does your home have a working smoke alarm?

If your home does not have a working smoke alarm, please call 3-1-1. Dallas Fire-Rescue will be glad to install a free smoke alarm for you!



#### What is Causing our Homes to Burn?

##### Electrical:

Still the leading cause of residential fires in Dallas. Remember not to use extension cords for permanent wiring and avoid overloading power strips and electrical plugs. Do not run electrical cords across doorways or under carpets. Many older homes are not properly wired for today's modern appliances so remember to be cautious in your use of electricity.

##### Unattended Cooking:

More home fires begin in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Keep anything that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains away from your stove top. If a pan fire begins on your stove, slide a lid over the top of the pan to suffocate the fire. Get everyone out and call 9-1-1 immediately.

##### Improperly Discarded Smoking Materials:

Discard cigarettes, cigars and pipes safely and completely. Never drop smoking materials in a trash can or out the car window. Make sure your smoking materials are extinguished by running them under the water until they are cool to the touch. If you smoke, it is always best to smoke outside.

##### Combustibles too close to heat:

Summer heat sources include camp fires and grills. Properly extinguish all camp fires and keep a 3 foot clearance of combustibles from any heat source. Grilling on apartment balconies is prohibited unless the balcony has a sprinkler system and a 10 ft. clearance of combustibles is provided.

##### Equipment Malfunction:

Washers, dryers, ovens, refrigerators and microwaves are common household appliances that can be a fire hazard when operating improperly. If you notice an appliance malfunctioning, discontinue using it until you have had it inspected by a professional repairman or replaced. You know your home best. Pay attention to the things in it.

#### Summer Water Safety:

According to the American Red Cross, 90% of families with young children will be in the water this summer and 48% plan to swim without a life guard. Stay cool this summer but stay SAFE:

- Only swim in approved areas and never swim alone.
- Always supervise children near water at all times and make sure they learn to swim.
- Check the depth of the water before jumping in.
- Wear a life jacket while boating or swimming in a lake.
- Be aware of skiers, jet skis and water craft while lake swimming.
- Confine skiing and jet skiing to daylight hours.
- Never drink alcohol while driving a water craft.

