



Smoke Signals

A Life Safety Newsletter

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City of Dallas

Lost Children:

It's easy for children to get separated from their families at big events like state fairs and football games. Have fun this fall but stay connected:

- Teach children how to identify police and/or fire officers and approach them for help.
- Agree on a designated meeting place before your visit begins and go there if you get separated.
- Have a current photo of your child on your phone. This gives a clear description to authorities.
- Make a tag with your name and cell phone number and safety pin it to the child.



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 fires in the city of Dallas?

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 and turn off the burner. 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:

Fall brings cooler temperatures so heat your home carefully! Keep a 3 ft clearance of combustibles from any heat source including space heaters, fireplaces, grills, furnaces and stoves. Have your furnace inspected by a professional and install a carbon monoxide detector according to manufacturers directions.

Children playing with fire:

Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start fires by playing with matches and lighters... And are most likely to die in them. Teach your children not to play with fire and if you know of a juvenile who has shown tendencies to start fires, call 214-670-4312. Our Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program can help.

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Grass and Wildfire Safety:

Our summer drought has made the risk of grass and wildfire a serious concern. Prevention is the key! Follow these safety tips to prevent these types of fire:

- Do not throw cigarette butts out of a vehicle, dispose of them properly!
- Do not burn leaves, brush or trash outside.
- Maintain a 10 foot clearance of combustibles from grills and propane tanks.
- Don't park cars, trucks or RVs on dry grass. Exhaust systems on cars can reach up to 1000 degrees and it only takes 500 degrees to start a brush fire.
- Rake leaves, cut off dead limbs and twigs, and mow grass regularly.
- Teach your children about the dangers of playing with fire.