

# **Frederick County Fire & Rescue**

## **Office of the Fire Marshal**



**2021 Weekly/Monthly  
Fire Prevention Education Safety Messages**

# Fire Prevention Education Safety Messages

## January Topics

Week 1: Winter Weather

Week 2: Space Heater Safety

Week 3: Generator Safety

Week 4: Fire Safety for Wood & Pellet Stoves

Week 5: Preventing & Thawing Frozen Pipes

## February Topics

Week 1: Fire Safety for Children

Week 2: Kitchen Grease Fire Safety

Week 3: Fire Safety and your pets

Week 4: Basement Fire Safety

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## March 2021 Topics

Week of March 7th: Smoke Alarms - Daylight Savings Time

Week of March 14<sup>th</sup>: Home Escape Plan

Week of March 21<sup>st</sup>: Get Out, Stay Out

Week of March 28<sup>th</sup>: Close the Door

## April 2021 Topics

Week of April 4<sup>th</sup>: Hoarding and Fire Safety

Week of April 11<sup>th</sup>: Medical Oxygen and Fire Safety

Week of April 18<sup>th</sup>: Clothes Dryer Safety

Week of April 25<sup>th</sup>: Smoking and Home Fire Safety

## May 2021 Topics

Week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hotel/Motel Safety

Week of May 9<sup>th</sup>: RV Fire Safety

Week of May 16<sup>th</sup>: Hazardous Materials in the Home

Week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Home Fire Sprinklers

Week of May 30<sup>th</sup>: Grilling Safety Tips

## **June 2021 Topics**

**Week of June 6<sup>th</sup>: Home Garage Fires**

**Week of June 13<sup>th</sup>: Stop, Drop and Roll**

**Week of June 20<sup>th</sup> : Fire Pit Safety**

**Week of June 27<sup>th</sup>: Fireworks Safety**

## **July 2021 Topics**

**Week of July 4<sup>th</sup>: Gasoline Safety**

**Week of July 11<sup>th</sup>: Being Careful in the Heat**

**Week of July 18<sup>th</sup>: Summer Storms**

**Week of July 25<sup>th</sup>: Matches and Lighter Safety**

## **August 2021 Topics**

**Week of August 1<sup>st</sup>: Campfire Safety**

**Week of August 8<sup>th</sup>: Fire Safety in Apartment Buildings**

**Week of August 15<sup>th</sup>: College Campus Fire Safety**

**Week of August 22<sup>nd</sup>: Home Safety people with disabilities**

**Week of August 29<sup>th</sup>: Flooding**

## **September 2021 Topics**

**Week of September 5<sup>th</sup>: How to Use a Fire Extinguisher**

**Week of September 12<sup>th</sup>: Fire Safety in Public Buildings**

**Week of September 19<sup>th</sup>: Electrical Hazards**

**Week of September 26<sup>th</sup>: Barn Safety**

## **October 2021 Topics**

**Week of October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Fire Prevention Week**

**Week of October 10<sup>th</sup>: Fire Safety in the Kitchen**

**Week October 17<sup>th</sup>: Oily Rags Safety Tips**

**Week of October 24<sup>th</sup>: Halloween Safety**

**Week of October 31<sup>st</sup>: Lithium Ion Batteries**

## **November 2021 Topics**

**Week of November 7<sup>th</sup>: Smoke Alarms - Daylight Savings Time**

**Week of November 14<sup>th</sup>: Carbon Monoxide Safety**

**Week of November 21<sup>st</sup>: Turkey Fryer Safety**

**Week of November 28<sup>th</sup>: Fireplace and Woodstove Safety**

## **December 2021 Topics**

**Week December 5<sup>th</sup>: Live Christmas Tree Safety**

**Week of December 12<sup>th</sup>: Candles & Holiday Decorations**

**Week of December 19<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Cooking**

**Week of December 26<sup>th</sup>: New Year's Celebration – fireworks safety**

## **January 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Winter Weather**

Weatherproof your home to protect against the cold. If power lines are down, call your local utility and emergency services. Dress warmly and limit your exposure to the cold to prevent frostbite. Make sure your car is ready for winter travel.

### **Week 2: Space Heater Safety**

As the weather gets colder use caution when using space heaters. Keep at least 3 feet of clearance around and above your space heater. Remember to always plug your heater directly into a wall outlet. Make sure the heater has an auto shut-off should it tip over. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home.

### **Week 3: Generator Safety**

Generators should be used in a well-ventilated location outside away from all doors, windows, and vent openings so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home. Make sure to have a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm in your home. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.

### **Week 4: Fire Safety for Wood & Pellet Stoves**

Burn dry, seasoned wood. Keep children and pets away when you have a fire burning in the stove, as the outer surfaces of the stove and flue pipe are very hot. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the stove. Can Your Ashes", ashes should be kept outside in a metal container with a lid, away from the house and off the deck. Have your chimney and stove inspected and cleaned every year by a professional.

### **Week 5: Preventing Frozen Pipes**

When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing. Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children. Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the basement, crawl space, attic, garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.

## **February 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Fire Safety for Children**

Teach children to never touch matches or lighters and to tell a grown up when matches or lighters are found. Closely supervise children, making sure that they are kept away from fire sources, including lit candles, cigarettes, bonfires, and stoves. Use opportunities to teach children about fire safety.

### **Week 2: Kitchen Grease Fire Safety**

Keep a lid nearby when cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turnoff the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. Do NOT try to extinguish the fire with water.

### **Week 3: Fire Safety and your pets**

Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops. Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters. Have a pet-free zone” of at least 3 feet away from the fireplace or a woodstove. Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don’t chew through electrical cords. Never go back inside for a pet during a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

### **Week 4: Basement Fire Safety**

Install a smoke alarm in the basement. Maintain easy, quick access to your fuse box or circuit breaker panel. If you have oil, gas or wood burning equipment in the basement, you should also have a carbon monoxide alarm in your basement. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the furnace, oil burner, wood stoves, and water heater. Keep stairs free of clutter. Trash should not be stored in the basement.

## **March 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Daylight Savings Time – Change your batteries**

When you set your clocks forward don’t forget to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and if your smoke alarm is ten years old or older you need to replace it.

### **Week 2: Home Escape Plan**

Be prepared by creating and practicing your Home Fire Escape Plan. Make sure you know two ways out of each room, if possible, and have a safe meeting spot for your family.

### **Week 3: Get Out, Stay Out**

If a fire occurs in your home, get outside, stay outside and call 9-1-1. Never go back inside for anything or anyone.

### **Week 4: Close the Door**

Close the door. Whether you are going to bed at night or leaving the room in the event of a fire. Closing the door helps prevent a fire from spreading, lessens smoke damage, provides precious seconds needed for escape, a closed door can save lives.

## **April 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Hoarding and Fire Safety**

Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care. The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets. Help the person to make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Make sure there are working smoke alarms in the home.

### **Week 2: Medical Oxygen and Fire Safety**

Homes where medical oxygen is used need specific fire safety rules to keep people safe from fire and burns. Never smoke or allow anyone to smoke in a home where oxygen is in use. Keep oxygen cylinders at least five feet from a heat source, open flames or electrical devices. Body oil, hand lotion, and items containing oil and grease can easily ignite. Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near the oxygen.

### **Week 3: Clothes Dryer Safety**

To help prevent a clothes dryer fire, clean the lint filter before each load of laundry and once a year, or as needed, remove the lint from the vent pipe. Washer and dryers should be plugged directly into wall outlets.

### **Week 4: Smoking and Home Fire Safety**

Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths. If you smoke, smoke outside. Keep cigarettes, lighters, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children. Do not discard cigarettes in mulch, potted plants, leaves, landscaping, or other things that could ignite easily. Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out.

## **May 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Hotel/Motel Safety**

It is just as important to be prepared and know what you would do in a hotel/motel emergency as it is in your own home. When you enter your room, review the escape plan posted in your room. Take the time to find the exits. If the alarm sounds, leave right away, closing the door behind you. Use the stairs – never use the elevator during a fire. Keep your key by your bed and take it with you if there is a fire. If you can't escape; shut off the fans and air conditioner. Stuff wet towels in the crack around the doors. Call 9-1-1 and let them know your location.

### **Week 2: RV Fire Safety**

Install smoke alarms. Stay in the kitchen while cooking. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop. Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Have your propane system inspected often to make sure it still works properly. Know two ways out. Make sure windows can open easily. Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping. Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board.

### **Week 3: Hazardous Materials in the Home**

Chemicals used in your home can be dangerous. Follow the instructions on the label when you use and store household chemicals. Don't mix products. This can cause deadly gases or cause a fire. Store these materials out of the reach of children and pets. Never store materials that can cause a fire in the sun or near an open flame or heat source.

### **Week 4: Home Fire Sprinklers**

Home fire sprinklers are highly effective because they react quickly in a fire. They reduce the risk of death or injury from a fire because they dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced, allowing people the time to evacuate the home. Home fire sprinklers can be installed in new or existing homes.

### **Week 5: Grilling Safety Tips**

Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind when grilling:

- Make sure the grill is placed away from your house, deck railings and from under eaves.
- Never leave your grill unattended while cooking.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area while in use.

## **June 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Home Garage Fires**

Here are ways to keep your home safe by following a few easy tips in your home garage:

- Store oil, gasoline, paints, propane, and varnishes in a shed away from your home.
- Keep items that can burn on shelves away from appliances.
- Plug only one charging appliance into an outlet.
- Don't use an extension cord when charging an appliance.

### **Week 2: Stop, Drop and Roll**

It is important is stress, especially to children, that stop, drop and roll is only appropriate when your clothing or body is on fire. If a fire occurs in a home or building, however, they need to know that getting out fast and staying out is the priority. If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

### **Week 3: Fire Pit Safety**

Keep the fire pit at least 15 feet away from a building or any flammable materials. Do not put a fire pit on a wooden deck, or directly on grass, or under a covered porch. Place the fire pit on a non-flammable surface such as stone, brick or concrete. Never leave the fire unattended. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Hot embers should be placed in a metal container away from any structure.

### **Week 4: Fireworks Safety**

The Frederick County Fire Marshal's office hopes everyone has a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July and would like to remind you that fireworks are dangerous. In Virginia anything that leaves the ground, goes across the ground, or explodes such as firecrackers, bottle rockets and mortars are **illegal!** Please enjoy your 4<sup>th</sup> of July with Virginia legal fireworks.

## **July 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Gasoline Safety**

The Frederick County Fire Marshal's Office wants to remind you that gasoline vapors are highly flammable. Store gasoline only in approved containers, outside or in a building not attached to the house. Keep gasoline away from all heat sources such as smoking materials, campfires and grills. Never keep gasoline inside the home.

### **Week 2: Being Careful in the Heat**

Practice heat safety wherever you are. Make sure to stay hydrated. Limit strenuous outdoor activities. Never leave kids or pets in a vehicle. LOOK before you LOCK!!!

### **Week 3: Summer Storms**

Summer brings the threat of dangerous storms. If you hear thunder, then lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. Seek shelter inside as quickly as possible and stay away from windows and doors. Do not swim, wash dishes or shower during a thunderstorm. Avoid using electrical appliances or corded telephones.



## **Week 4: Matches and Lighter Safety**

Teach children to never touch matches or lighters to tell a grown up when matches or lighters are found. Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.

## **August 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Campfire Safety**

Ways to be safe around campfires. Keep the campfire at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn. Clear away dry leaves and sticks. Always have a hose, bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby. A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a damaging fire. Make sure to put it out completely before leaving the site.

### **Week 2: Fire Safety in Apartment Buildings**

Know the locations of all exit stairs from your floor. If the fire alarm sounds feel the door before opening. If it is hot, use another way out. Close all doors behind you as you leave. Take the key to your apartment in case you are not able to get out of the building. If fire or smoke is blocking all exits return or stay in your apartment. Keep the door closed. Cover cracks with towels. Call 9-1-1 and let the fire department know you are trapped.

### **Week 3: College Campus Fire Safety**

Things to look for before moving into a dormitory:

- Are there smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside of sleeping areas, and on each floor of the building?
- Are there at least two ways out of each room and the building?
- Are there exit signs in the hallways?
- Does the building have a sprinkler system?
- Does the building have a fire alarm system?
- Are there enough electrical outlets without using extension cords?

### **Week 4: Home Safety people with disabilities**

Millions of Americans live with physical or mental disabilities. It is important to build your fire prevention plans around your abilities. Have smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside of sleeping areas. Interconnect your alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use smoke alarms with a vibrating pad, flashing light, or strobe light. Test your alarms every month. Plan your home escape around your abilities. Know two ways out of every room. Being on the ground floor and near an exit will make your escape easier.

### **Week 5: Flooding**

Floods can happen everywhere, making them one of the country's most common natural disasters. Flash floods develop quickly; small streams, creek beds or drains can overflow and create flooding. Do not drive into flooded areas, even water only several inches deep can be dangerous. If your car becomes surrounded by rising water, get out quickly and move to higher ground. Stay away from downed power lines.

## **September 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: How to Use a Fire Extinguisher**

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing, everyone has exited the building, the fire department has been called, and the room is not filled with smoke. To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**.

- **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

### **Week 2: Fire Safety in Public Buildings**

People entering any public assembly building need to be prepared in case of an emergency. Take a good look around, locate the exits, some exits may be in front of you and some might be behind you. Be prepared to use the closest exit. Are the exit paths clear. React immediately during an emergency. If an alarm sounds, if you see smoke, fire, or some other disturbance immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

### **Week 3: Electrical Hazards**

Always plug major appliances, such as stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer, directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord with a major appliance, it can easily overheat and start a fire. Always plug small appliances directly into a wall outlet and unplug them when not in use. Do not overload wall outlets. Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away. Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug. Use power strips that have internal overload protection.

### **Week 4: Barn Safety**

Inspect your barn and outbuildings for fire hazards to reduce the risk of tragic loss. Keep heat lamps and space heaters a safe distance from anything that can burn. Electrical equipment is labeled for agricultural or commercial use. Do not use extension cords in the barn. Lightbulbs have covers to protect them from dust, moisture, and breakage. Dust and cobwebs around electrical outlets and lights are removed. Oily rags are stored in a closed, metal container away from heat. Exits are clearly marked and pathways are clear. Hazard checks take place on a set schedule.

## **October 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Fire Prevention Week**

**TBA – usually theme announced in June**

### **Week 2: Fire Safety in the Kitchen**

Never leave food attended while cooking. Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop such as oven mitts, towels, and food packaging. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan.

### **Week 3: Oily Rags Safety Tips**

Oily rags wet with flammable or combustible liquid can ignite on their own. They can start a fire if not handled carefully. The oils commonly used in oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry. This is why a pile of oily rags can be dangerous. Take the rags outside to dry. Hang them or spread them on the ground, weigh them down so they do not blow away. Keep them away from the house and off the deck. Put dried rags in a covered metal container in a cool place away from direct sunlight or any other heat source.

### **Week 4: Halloween Safety**

Halloween Fire Safety Tips:

- When choosing a costume, avoid long trailing fabric.
- Provide flashlights or glow sticks for children to carry for lighting while trick-or-treating.
- Keep decorations away from lit candles, or other heat sources.
- Use battery-operated candles or glow sticks in jack-o-lanterns.
- Keep exits clear of decorations.

### **Week 5: Lithium Ion Battery Safety**

Lithium Ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, scooters, smoke alarms, toys, etc. Take care when using them they can overheat, catch fire or explode. Do not charge the device under your pillow, on your bed or on a couch; do not place batteries in direct sunlight; store batteries away from anything that can catch fire; do not put lithium ion batteries in the trash, take them to a recycling location or follow disposal instructions.

## **November 2021 Topics**

### **Week 1: Daylight Savings Time – Change your batteries**

When you set your clocks back don't forget to replace the batteries in your smoke alarms and if your smoke alarm is ten years old or older you need to replace it.

### **Week 2: Carbon Monoxide Safety**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. CO alarms should be installed on every level of the home and tested monthly. When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow. A generator should be used outside, in a well-ventilated location, away from doors and windows. Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected every year by a professional.

### **Week 3: Turkey Fryer Safety**

Tips for turkey fryer safety. Keep outdoor fryers off decks, out of garages and a safe distance away from other structures. Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and dry before placing in the fryer. Place fryer on a level surface and do not move it once it's in use.

#### **Week 4: Fireplace and Woodstove Safety**

When the weather turns cold use your fireplace and woodstove safely. Use a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Never leave a burning fire unattended and make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed. "Can Your Ashes", ashes should be kept outside in a metal container with a lid, away from the house and off the deck. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned every year by a professional.

#### **December 2021 Topics**

##### **Week 1: Live Christmas Tree Safety**

This holiday season, before placing a live Christmas tree in the stand remember to cut 2" from the bottom of the trunk, keep the tree stand filled with water, away from heat sources and before leaving the room or going to bed turn off the lights.

##### **Week 2: Candles & Holiday Decorations**

Candles may be decorative, but they are a potential cause of household fires. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn and out of reach of children and pets. Remember to blow out all candles when leaving a room or going to bed.

##### **Week 3: Holiday Cooking**

Safety in the kitchen is important especially when cooking during the holidays. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop. Keep children away from the stove. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns. Keep the floor clear so you don't trip. Keep knives out of the reach of children. Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children also.

##### **Week 4: New Year's Celebration – fireworks safety**

The Frederick County Fire Marshal's office hopes everyone has a Happy New Year and would like to remind you that fireworks are dangerous. In Virginia anything that leaves the ground, goes across the ground, or explodes such as firecrackers, bottle rockets and mortars are **illegal!**