

Safe and Sound Campaign

- The campaign will educate Ohioans about the risks of heating related fires and also how to protect themselves in the case of a fire.
- The goal is to decrease the number of winter fires and increase public awareness for fire safety and prevention.
- There are two main points of the campaign that are encompassed into our slogan.
- *Safe* refers to all preventative safety measures including following manufacturer's instructions for heating equipment, not overloading outlets, using candles safely and checking your home for any potential fire risks.
- *Sound* is representative of the phrase "sound the alarm." It refers to the areas of protection in case of a fire, including having a working smoke alarm and a fire escape plan with two ways out.

Space Heaters/Heating

- According to the U.S. Fire Administration, from 2008-2010, an average of 50,100 home heating fires occurred in the United States each year and resulted in an annual average of approximately 150 deaths, 575 injuries and \$326 million in property loss.
- Heating was the second leading cause of home fires following cooking.
- Home heating fires peaked in the early evening hours between 5 and 9 p.m. with the highest peak between 6 and 8 p.m. This 4-hour period accounted for 30 percent of all home heating fires.
- Home heating fires peaked in January (21 percent) and declined to the lowest point during the summer months from June to August.
- Confined fires, those fires confined to chimneys, flues or fuel burners, accounted for 87 percent of home heating fires.
- Thirty percent of the non-confined home heating fires occurred because the heat source was too close to things that can burn.

Safety Tips:

- Use kerosene heaters and space heaters according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Alternative heaters need their space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away.
 - Make sure your alternative heaters have 'tip switches.' These 'tip switches' are designed to automatically turn off the heater in the event they tip over.
 - Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes.
 - Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot.
 - Only refuel heaters outdoors.
 - Make sure wood stoves are properly installed, and at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Ensure they have the proper floor support and adequate ventilation.
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Cooking

- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in these fires across the nation from 2006-2011, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.
- Two-thirds (67%) of home cooking fires started with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.
- Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but these incidents accounted for 16% of the cooking fire deaths.
- Ranges accounted for the largest share (58%) of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16%.
- More than half (57%) of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves.
- Frying poses the greatest risk of fire.
- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

Safety Tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your Thanksgiving or holiday turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids also stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags when handling hot food.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.

Decorations

- Purchase lights that have the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and use the lights according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Outdoor lights are specifically labeled for outdoor use. Outdoor lights should be fastened securely and placed on a ground fault interrupter circuit.
- Do not connect too many light sets together and never use extension cords that are worn or cracked. Do not run them under rugs or over sharp objects.
- Turn off lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Live Christmas trees should be as fresh as possible. Make a fresh cut at the base of the trunk, and place the tree in a sturdy stand; water it daily. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- One in five holiday fires occur because a heat source is too close to the tree. Locate the tree as far away from heat sources as possible. Never place lighted candles on or near the

- tree, or where the tree may fall if knocked over by a pet or child.
- Do not block your primary or alternative escape routes with a tree, decorations or presents.

Additional Tips

- Be careful when using candles. Keep the flame away from objects that can burn and out of the reach of children.
- If the power goes out, make certain that all electrical appliances, such as stoves, electric space heaters and hair dryers, are in the OFF position.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Make sure that your home's smoke alarms are in proper working order.
- All smoke alarms should be tested monthly and batteries replaced twice a year.
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and may not work during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and if so, replace those twice a year.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, inside and outside bedrooms.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow, ice and debris for easy access by the fire department.