



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.
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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.

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.