Fall Fire Safety Tips

As temperatures drop and winter nears, take precautions to help prevent fires.

For the Home

- In the event of a fire, call 911, get out, close the door, and don’t go back in.
- Practice your escape plan.
- Change your smoke alarm batteries twice a year - the time change is a good reminder.
- Ensure your address is visible from the roadway and from both directions of travel.
- Don’t leave candles unattended or within reach of children or pets.
- Sleep with doors closed - in the event of a fire it buys you time to get out.
  https://youtu.be/bSP03BE74WA
- Ensure escape ladders are in place for areas of the home that are above ground levels.
- Check your fire extinguisher for readiness of use and accessibility.
  https://youtu.be/BLjoWjCrDqg

Heating

- Have chimneys and fire boxes cleaned and inspected prior to use each season.
- Check electric heaters to ensure cords are not worn or damaged. The use of extension cords with heaters can result in overloading or creating short circuits.
- Dispose of hot or smoldering ash appropriately.
- Keep all flammable /combustible materials away from heat sources.
- Don’t use of candles for heating.
- Gas heaters designed for exterior use should not be used as an interior heating source.

Cooking

- Keep BC or K extinguishers available while cooking.
- Remember to turn the stove off when not in use. Keep pot handles turned so that they will not stick out beyond the front of stoves. Never set combustibles on top of the stove, even temporarily. https://youtu.be/946coF10rgY
- When using a portable deep (turkey) fryer, operate outdoors and ensure food products are dry (not frozen with ice attached) before submerging. https://youtu.be/7gn895v4wkc
- Grill only in designated areas and never leave grill unattended when in use.
  https://youtu.be/65RCHLNIKa8
Decorations & Lighting

- As holidays approach, take into consideration the materials in your decorations. If necessary, use fire retardant spray to treat decorations prior to use and only use away from heat sources.
- Live Christmas trees are beautiful but can be extremely combustible as they dry. Ensure proper hydration and keep away from heat sources. [https://youtu.be/xr6b9b8FYKk](https://youtu.be/xr6b9b8FYKk)
- When using lighted decorations, be sure to not overload circuitry, or alter the design. Use only according to manufactory recommendations.

CO Safety

- Never allow vehicles to warm up inside garages.
- Ensure CO alarms are in place and operational where gas appliances are in use.
- Never run generators or CO-emitting engines indoors.

Outdoor Fire Safety

- Keep leaf litter and debris clear from around and on the roof of the home.
- Keep water hoses handy during dry seasons.
- Store firewood, propane tanks, and other combustibles away from structures.
- Position vehicles in a way that you can leave in the event of an emergency.
- Only burn debris using safe practices after obtaining a permit. For burning permits or debris burning regulations visit [Burnsafetn.org](http://Burnsafetn.org).

For additional information or to request a smoke alarm installation please contact your local fire department or the Sevier County Fire Administrator by calling 865-774-3603 or dpuckett@seviercountytn.gov