



July – Sep 2012

FIRE

According to the Red Cross, the third leading cause of accidental death in recent years has been fire. Most of these fires have occurred in the home, which is a particularly dangerous environment. Fire is always a possible danger, and a probable secondary disaster in the event of a major earthquake or flood. It is always important that you follow safety measures for fire prevention, detection, and escape. It is doubly important after an earthquake because regular fire fighters may not be able to get to you in time. Floods and other natural disasters will also spawn a large number of fires because of electrical shorts and severed gas lines.

Prevention

Most accidental fires can be avoided with a little care. Firemen have a saying that "a clean building seldom burns." Good housekeeping is the first line of defense against home fires. Do you practice fireproof housekeeping? There are several steps a family can take to minimize the possibility of a fire starting in their home and to minimize the effects of a fire should one occur.

- Install fire extinguishers in danger spots. The hand pump, inexpensive, 5-gallon, water type is preferred. Carbon Tetrachloride and other vaporizing liquid type extinguishers are NOT recommended for use in small enclosed spaces, because of the dangers of poisonous fumes.
- Make sure fire extinguishers are accessible and maintained.
- Keep a garden hose near the water faucet at all times, especially in the winter months when fire danger is greatest.
- Install adequate insulation at all heating locations. This is particularly important around wood and coal-burning stoves.
- Repair or replace defective or inadequate electrical wiring.
- Use only the proper size fuses.
- Replace frayed electrical cords or broken plugs.
- Do not run cords under rugs or hook cords over nails.
- Keep electric outlets safely loaded (no overloads). Keep appliances clean and in good repair.

- Perform required maintenance on heating systems.
- Dispose of trash immediately.
- Use only non-flammable cleaning fluids.
- Keep gasoline and other flammable liquids in tightly- closed metal containers.
- Do NOT use a combustible liquid to freshen a fire.
- Keep garage, basement, attic, closets, etc. free of rubbish.
- Keep the yard and garden well trimmed (no tall weeds, etc.).
- Use a fireplace screen.
- Install a spark arrestor on your chimney.
- Place curtains and drapes so that they won't blow into flames or touch hot surfaces from stoves, fireplaces, candles, etc.
- Supervise children playing near an open fire.
- Store matches in metal containers out of sight and reach of small children.
- Turn pot handles away from the edge of the stove.
- Keep important papers and documents in a fire-proof box or safe.
- Install and maintain home smoke detectors.
- More lives are saved each year by smoke detectors than all other fire fighting tools and equipment combined. A home without one is only inviting trouble or tragedy.
- Post emergency numbers for the fire department on ALL telephones.
- Each family should have a pre-arranged escape plan for getting out of their home in case of fire. There should be at least two exits from every room (doors or windows).
- Determine a pre-arranged meeting area that all family members should go to IMMEDIATELY when they leave the home if it is on fire. This could be a tree in the front yard, the neighbor's porch, etc. This will facilitate taking a "head count" and could save the life of a would-be rescuer who returns to a burning building to search for someone who has already gotten out.

Detection

Statistics show that most FATAL fires occur while the family is sleeping. Smoke and toxic gases are the killers in most home fires rather than flames. Smoke detectors (either ionization types or photo-electric detectors powered by electricity or battery) can alert your family while the fire is still small, which may mean the difference between life and death.

For minimum protection there should be a smoke detector between the bedrooms or sleeping areas and the rest of the house, and/or a smoke detector at the head of each stairway. The amount of detection equipment needed in your home or apartment will be determined by the size and floor plan of your living space, your life style, and how much money your family is willing to spend. (Your local fire department can give you assistance in planning your fire detection system).

CERT training is available by registering at: <http://www.unifiedfire.org/divisions/community/cert.aspx>

After registering, take the online training at: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/IS317/>

September 13, 20, 27 October 4, 11
LDS Church, 4113 West 6200 South, Taylorsville,
Thursdays 6:30pm-9:30pm **Register Today!!**