

# October Fire Safety



Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association



## Candles:

- When using candles, place them a safe distance from combustibles.
- Always use non-flammable holders and place candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Place candles in sturdy containers. Remember, hot wax burns kids and pets.
- Always extinguish candles prior to leaving the room or going to bed.
- Use care with "fire salts," which produce coloured flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children and pets.
- Before lighting any fire, remove all, papers, and decorations from the fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.



## Procedure:

- Have a pre-planned fire response plan and practice it.
- If you suspect a fire, do not open a door without checking it for heat. See if smoke is leaking around the edges.
- Never touch a door handle with your bare hands as it could burn you.
- If you get caught in smoke, get on your hands and knees and crawl.
- Close doors and windows behind you as you escape the fire. This will reduce drafts that fan the flames.
- Establish a meeting place outside the house. You will then know who is safe.
- Once all people are out of the buildings, call the fire department. If the fire is small, try to control or extinguish it.
- Do not try to put out a large fire.
- Never allow anyone to re-enter a burning building!
- Use a protective screen on your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Install a smoke detector or new batteries in the one(s) you have and TEST it.
- Never use indoor extension cords outside.
- Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords.
- Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of puddles.
- Dispose of fireplace ashes into a metal container until cold.
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.
- If your clothes catch on fire remember to STOP, DROP, and ROLL to extinguish the flames.
- Put "No Smoking" signs in barns and near flammable materials.



# Activities

## Short Activity:

- Go over with your club the “PASS” technique of using a fire extinguisher.
  - PASS stands for:
    - Pull the pin.
    - Aim the extinguisher nozzle (horn or hose) at the base of the fire.
    - Squeeze or press the handle
    - Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire. Make sure the fire is completely out.
- Have your club come up with an emergency response plan for your club for a facility you are in regularly (house you meet in, barn, etc.). Give them all a handout after summarizing the steps to making an emergency response plan so they can make one with their families as well.



## Longer Activities or Safety Camp:

- Arrange for a tour of your local fire department for the whole club.
- Create an obstacle course where members have to roll out of bed (e.g. roll across a few bales of hay). Then crawl under the smoke (e.g. flagging tape), and reaching up to test the door handle to see if it is hot (e.g. grab a flag). Ending with crawling to the window and climb through it if not too high (e.g. suspended hula hoop). Don't forget to explain the reasoning behind the activity.

# October

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