

Fall Fire Safety



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As summer turns to fall we start thinking of sitting by a warm fire with a good book or cuddling with loved ones. It is also a good time to think about fall fire safety before the cold winds of winter sets in. Some safety tips are the same regardless of the time of year, but many safety concerns are also seasonal.

Time Change means Smoke detector checks:

When you change your clocks this November 1, 2020, keep in mind that a new Smoke Detector Act will go into effect on January 1, 2023 in Illinois. The new, updated Act will require all Illinois residents to replace their older smoke alarms with the type that has a long-term 10-year sealed battery by the end of 2022. At the end of the 10-year life cycle, the new smoke alarm will automatically alert the homeowner to replace the alarm. It is still recommended that you continue to test your smoke detector every month.

Decorate safely:

Did you know that many Americans spend more money to decorate their homes for Halloween than they do for the end of the year holidays? Some say twice as much!!

- Consider battery operated lights for decorations and avoid using candles altogether.
- Don't put decorations near open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and heaters.
- Purchase decorations that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory (FM or UL).
- Examine each set of lights for broken sockets, frayed wires, loose connections and discard any damaged sets.
- Be careful not to overload circuits when plugging in lights and other electronic decorations.
- Check that no decorations are blocking your home's exits pathways. Keep your escape routes clear.

Home Heating:

- Whatever type of device you use to heat your home, make sure your device and/or system is in good working condition. Get your fireplace, wood stove, furnace or heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified heating contractor every year before it has a problem and doesn't work when you need it most.
- Carbon Monoxide is a silent, invisible gas that can kill if the percentage gets to high in your home. Carbon Monoxide detectors are required by law on each level of your home if you have a fossil burning appliance or source on that level.
- If you build frequent fires, keep your fires small. Never overload your fireplace or wood stove.

For more information on Fall Safety, call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.