

Residential Fires - How Prepared Are You?

You first hear the siren and air horn blasts, eventually several fire apparatus scream by and you begin squinting in the direction of response for smoke or fire. The next morning you hear and read about the family that experienced the residential structure fire. Do you ever think to yourself, what would I do in the event of a fire; what would my family do?

The important question is this: Are you and your family prepared if the unthinkable happens? Let's Prepare!

Prevention

- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking; keep children away from the stove
- If you choose to use candles, place on a non-combustible surface, use a glass chimney
- Keep all heating appliances away from combustibles
- Don't step on or cover flexible electric cords
- Electrical concerns; Contact an electrician
- Exercise extreme caution with smoking materials and open flames
- Preach, Teach and Live Fire Safety

Detection

- Early warning devices, Smoke Detectors, are your first line of defense in case of a fire
- A minimum of one Smoke Detector is required on each floor including the basement
- Test Smoke Detectors monthly
- Replace Smoke Detector Batteries annually
- Use a vacuum and wand to clean Smoke Detectors occasionally
- Replace Smoke Detectors per manufacturers recommendation, about 10 years

Reaction

- Plan and practice escape routes with your family TONIGHT
- With your family, diagram two ways out of each room, especially bedrooms
- Post the diagrams in all rooms of your home
- Plan for special escape from second story windows and below grade rooms
- Identify a meeting place for all to gather once safely outside your residence
- NEVER RE-ENTER your residence once safely outside
- Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house or your cellphone, give your address and the problem, and stay on the phone with dispatch

If you would like more information, please contact us at 886-6200 or stop by one of our stations.