

## News & Notes

### SMOKE DETECTORS

Just as all fires are not the same, all smoke detectors are not the same. There are two kinds of smoke alarm technologies in common use: ionization and photo electronic. They detect two different types of fire.

**Ionization Smoke Alarms** are the most popular kind sold in the United States. They monitor the electrically charged particles in the air. Smoke particles entering the sensing chamber change the electrical balance of the air. When combustion particles enter the smoke alarm, they obstruct the flow of the current. An alarm is pre-programmed to sound when the current gets too low. Ionization smoke alarms respond first to fast flaming fires. A flaming fire devours combustibles extremely fast, spreads rapidly and generates considerable heat with little smoke. They are best suited for rooms, which contain highly combustible material such as: Cooking fat/grease; Flammable liquids; Newspaper; Paint; Cleaning solutions.

**Photo electronic Smoke Alarms** contain a light emitting diode (LED) which is adjusted to direct a narrow infrared light across the unit's detection chamber. When smoke particles enter this chamber they interfere with the beam and scatter the light. When a pre-set level of light strikes the photodiode, the alarm is activated. Photo electronic smoke alarms respond first to slow smoldering fires that generate large amounts of thick smoke with little heat and may smolder for hours before bursting into flames.

They are best suited for living rooms, bedrooms and kitchens. This is because these rooms often contain large pieces of furniture, such as sofas, chairs, mattresses and counter tops, which will burn slowly and create more smoldering smoke than flames. They are also less prone to nuisance alarms in the kitchen area than ionization smoke alarms.



"Well, for starters, you're employing way more flying monkeys than you really need."

### HALLOWEEN RIDDLES

- 1) What makes a vampire cough?
- 2) What type of fish did the ghost catch?
- 3) Where do ghosts buy their sheets?
- 4) What is one room in a haunted house where a ghost never goes?
- 5) What happens when a witch flies faster than her broom?

**Answers on Page 2 Safety Bits and Pieces**

# Safety Matters

## OCTOBER

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## October is Fire Prevention Month – 10 Home Fire Safety Tips

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and approximately injure 20,000 more. U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires each year, with three-quarters of them occurring in residences.

A home is often referred to as a safe haven. This month, make sure your home is protected from (and your family is prepared for) a fire. Here are 10 simple tips to help you avoid fires and reduce the risk of injury should one occur:

- 1) Smoke Alarms** – These are still a very important addition to your home. Smoke alarms are widely available and inexpensive. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly. Replace smoke alarms every ten years.
- 2) Prevent Electrical Fires** – Don't overload circuits or extension cords. Cords and wires should never be placed under rugs or in high traffic areas. Avoid loose electrical connections by checking the fit of the plug in the wall outlet. If the plug loosely fits, inspect the outlet right away. A poor connection between the plug and the outlet can cause overheating and can start a fire in minutes.
- 3) Keep Plugs Safe** – Unplug all appliances when not in use. Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions and use your senses to spot any potential disasters. If a plug is overheating, smells strange, shorts out or sparks – the appliance should be shut off immediately, then replaced or repaired.
- 4) Alternate Heaters** – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away. Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.
- 5) Fire Safety Sprinklers** – When combined with working smoke alarms, home fire sprinklers greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.
- 6) Create An Escape Route** – Create and practice your escape plan with your family from every room in the house. Practice staying low to the floor and checking for hot doors using the back of your hand. It's just like a routine school fire drill – but in your home.
- 7) Position Appliances Carefully** – Try to keep TV sets, kitchen and other appliances away from windows with curtains. If there is a wiring problem, curtains can spread a fire quickly. Additionally, keeping your appliances away from water sources (like rain coming in from windows) can help prevent wiring damage which can lead to a fire.
- 8) Clean Dryer Vents** – Clothes dryers often start fires in residential areas. Clean the lint filter every time you start a load of clothes to dry or after the drying cycle is complete. Make sure your exhaust duct is made of metal tubing and not plastic or foil. Clean the exhaust duct with a good quality dryer vent brush to prevent blockage & check for lint build up behind the dryer at least twice a year.
- 9) Exercise Fire Prevention Awareness Around the Holidays** – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.
- 10) Conduct Regular Inspections** – Check all of your electronic equipment and wiring at least once a month. Taking a little time to do this each month can really pay off.

Following these simple tips could potentially save your life or the life of a loved one. Pass this list on to your friends and family and make this fire prevention month count!

# Safety Bits & Pieces

## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS TRICK-OR-TREATERS SHOULD HEAR

1. Be sure your costume allows you to see in all directions. Look both ways before crossing a street.
2. Stay well-lit and visible to others. Use reflective tape and take a flashlight.
3. Wear comfortable shoes.
4. Bring pets into the house before leaving, in order to keep them safe.
5. Never go into a stranger's house unless your parents are with you.
6. Don't eat the contents of your bag before your parents check it out.
7. Don't take shortcuts through backyards, alleys or parks. Plan your route in advance and stick to the plan.
8. If you are an older child going out with friends, make sure your parents know where you are going and with whom you are going.
9. If you take younger siblings with you, be sure to keep them safe.
10. If you can drive and are taking friends to a party, always pay attention to your driving. Be certain that you have enough gas.
11. If your parents give you a curfew, be sure you get back on time.
12. Vandalism is never cool. You can get in big trouble if you soap windows or throw eggs at cars or houses.

## HALLOWEEN RIDDLES ANSWERS

- 1) Turtleneck Sweaters
- 2) Spookled Trout
- 3) At white sales.
- 4) The living room!
- 5) She goes flying off the handle.

OCTOBER IS  
**National Audiology  
Awareness Month**

October is  
**National  
Protect Your  
Hearing Month**

## SAFETY TIPS OF THE MONTH

Several safety tips to help protect your eyes:

- 1) Wear eye protection whenever your eyes are at risk.
- 2) When using hazardous chemicals (ie: bleach, detergents, cleansers) never mix chemical agents or other caustic agents.
- 3) To improve safety on stairs and walkways remove tripping hazards, secure rugs, install gates on stairs, and provide sufficient lighting and effective handrails.
- 4) Wash your hands after completing a task before touching your eyes.
- 5) When cooking use shields.
- 6) For all eye injuries seek medical attention immediately.

# FIRE EXIT GENERAL GUIDELINES

A workplace should have two or more exit routes, depending on the number of people involved, the layout and the size of the work area. These exit routes must be permanent and always unobstructed. The following are safety guidelines for exit and exit route safety:

- \*Exit doors must open from inside without keys, tools, or special knowledge.
  - \*Exit doors must open outwards.
  - \*Exit doors must not be revolving or sliding.
  - \*Exit routes must have adequate emergency lighting.
  - \*Line of sight to an exit sign must be clear.
  - \*Each exit must have a distinctive sign that says "Exit".
  - \*Exit doors must have no signs or furnishings that obscure their visibility.
  - \*Every exit route must be free of highly flammable furnishings, decorations, and other materials.
  - \*An exit must lead directly outside or to a walkway, street, refuge area or open space with access outdoors.
  - \*Exit routes must not pass through or into dead ends or lockable rooms.
- It's important that you prepare emergency plans that show exit routes employees must use in different work areas. Plans should provide instructions about procedures that employees must follow during an emergency. These emergency plans should be posted in common areas.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



"An encyclopedia? I don't know. Let's look up what it is on Wikipedia."

## QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

Self-respect grows with the ability  
to say **NO** to oneself.  
*Abraham J. Heschel*



## From the State of Delaware's Office of Highway Safety... Pedestrian Safety

Seventeen (17) pedestrians have been killed in 2016. Of those seventeen, five were killed in less than two weeks. "Alcohol involvement – for the driver and/or the pedestrian – was confirmed in 41% of all fatal pedestrian crashes in 2016," says Lisa Flowers, Community Relations Officer, for the Office of Highway Safety (OHS). The following are tips for pedestrians and drivers offered by OHS:

### Tips for pedestrians

- Wear reflective clothing, a blinking light or use your cell phone's flashlight.
  - Use a crosswalk.
- Be focused. Be aware of your surroundings and not distracted with your cell phone.
- Walk on the sidewalk when available, not the shoulder. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Never assume a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach you to make sure you are seen.
  - Never walk under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

### Tips for drivers

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times. Safety is a shared responsibility.
  - Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or in bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
  - Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing that you can't see.
    - Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street.
    - Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

For more information on pedestrian safety visit <http://www.nhtsa.gov/Pedestrians>.

**Drive Safe. Arrive Alive DE.**