

El Centro Fire Department

Basic Fire Safety Household Tips

In All Areas of Your Home

- Cover all unused electrical outlets. To avoid electrical shock.
- Arrange electrical cords so they do not either dangle loosely nor entangle with one another.
- Matches, lighters, and all flammable materials should be kept out of the reach of children at all times.
- Fireplaces and, especially, chimneys should be cleaned and inspected by a reputable professional every year.
- There should be a smoke detector installed on every level of your home and in the hallways leading to the bedrooms.
- Set the thermostats on water heaters between 135 and 130 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Formulate an escape plan for every room in your home, with an alternate plan in case the first option is blocked by fire. Practice these escapes until every member of your family can perform them without second thought.
- Set up a safe place to meet outside.
- Keep flammable materials away from heat sources.
- Try to use non-flammable or fire-resistant materials for curtains and upholstery.
- Use space heaters only on noncombustible surfaces and at least three feet from furniture and walls.
- Store all flammable and combustible products in cool, well-ventilated places, locked securely and/or out of the reach of children.

Garage

- Flammable liquids such as fuels should not be kept in the house.
- Keep paints, thinners, and other combustible chemicals out of child's reach. Ideally, these materials should be kept in a locked metal cabinet, away from heat sources.
- Keep dirty rags in a sealed metal can or dispose of them.
- When not in actual use, lawn mowers and all gas-powered appliances should be stored empty.
- Keep electrical outlets covered and do not leave anything plugged in, when not in use.
- Store gasoline only in metal cans approved by your fire department.

Kitchen

- Turn pot handles in while using burners on the stove.
- Store cleansers and other chemicals out of children's reach, in cabinets with childproof locks.
- Make sure children are not near when working with hot liquids.
- Make sure electrical cords are not hanging over the counter and appliances are unplugged when not in use.
- Keep fire extinguisher near farthest exit from the stove.
- Do not use water to douse a flaming pot. Smother with cover or baking sheet or use fire extinguisher.

Bathrooms

- Tap water should never be hot enough to scald wrist. Run cold water in tub first, and then use hot water to warm to desired temperature.
- Check in on children often. Never leave a child unsupervised for an extended period of time.
- Make sure all medications and chemicals are out of child's reach and/or in childproof locked cabinets.

Bedrooms

- In case of fire, it's a good practice to keep water in plastic bottles in bedroom closets to dampen cloths for face protection during escape.
- Keep drapes away from heat sources, including lamps.
- Keep electrical cords from dangling.
- Try to avoid the use of extension cords. If you must use them, make sure they are UL approved and that they hug the wall. Under no circumstances should any electric wires cross over the middle of the room.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I get a fire inspection for my business?

A: Contact the Fire Department at 760-337-4567, between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and schedule an appointment with the secretary.

Q: Where can I dispose of household hazardous materials?

A:

Q: Is there a fee for Fire Department plan check review?

A: Fees are charged for the following plan checks: Fire Sprinkler Systems, Fire Alarm Systems, Hood Fire Suppression Systems, and Private Fire Hydrants. The fees include initial review and final field inspection services.

Q: How long does it take for plan check review by the Fire Department

A: The Fire Department normally processes these reviews in approximately five working days.

Q: Where do I dispose of a used fire extinguisher?

A:

Q: Where can I buy a fire extinguisher?

A: The yellow pages of the telephone book will list vendors that sell and service fire extinguishers.

Q: What size fire extinguisher do I need for my home or business?

A: The minimum size fire extinguisher for a business or multi-family residence is 2A-10BC for every 6000 square feet of area, and not to exceed 75 feet of travel distance to access the extinguisher. Single-family residences should consider the area they wish to protect and be guided by the vendor's recommendation.

Q: Do you service fire extinguishers?

A: No. Several businesses that sell and service fire extinguishers are listed in the yellow pages of the telephone book.

Q: Where can I get a CPR class?

A: Check the Heartsaver CPR information available

Q: How do I locate an El Centro street map?

A:

Q: Who do I contact to report a need for weed abatement?

A:

Q: Where do I dispose of an out of compliance LPG cylinder?

A:

Q: Where can I dispose of a Christmas tree?

A: