

APRIL 2021
FIRE PREVENTION – RISK REDUCTION
NEWSLETTER

Dear Subscriber,

Spring has officially arrived; trees are blooming, plants are budding, and temperature is rising. Let us make this “Spring Cleanup” a fire-safe one by implementing the following safety tips:

- Clean your garage of stored newspapers or other rubbish that can fuel a fire.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly. You can link smart smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to your smartphone.
- Change batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Clean up excess lint in the clothes dryer.
- Keep outdoor debris or dead vegetation away from the house.
- Use barbecue grills outside only. Place in a safe area away from building, windows, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units or places with high/dead vegetation.
- Check your propane barbecue grill hose for leaks and cracks. Never store propane indoors.
- Make a fire escape plan and practice it with all members of the family.
- Prepare for storm-related outages.
- Make sure your street numbers are posted properly and are visible.

Santa Fe County Fire Department has listened to our constituents’ concerns and has updated/amended the online open burning permit. The permit is still free of charge and divided into two permits: Agricultural/Vegetation and Ceremonial/Recreational. Starting April 1st 2021, open burning permits obtained prior to December 14th 2020 will no longer be valid. Please apply for the new open burning permit at the earliest convenience. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation during this transition. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

A new, updated, and free Open Burning Permit is available online at the link below:

https://www.santafecountynm.gov/fire/burn_permit

Contact Fire Prevention at fireprevention@santafecountynm.gov or 505-995-6523 with questions or concerns.

We would like this e-newsletter to educate and help prevent emergencies, so please share your feedback and suggestions with us to help make our community safer. You can email your feedback/suggestions to fireprevention@santafecountynm.gov

Stay healthy, safe, and informed.

Sincerely,

J.R. Blay

Santa Fe County Fire Department
Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention/Risk Reduction

Wildland

With spring here, now is a great time to start preparing your home for potential threats of wildland fire dangers. Multiple resources are available on the Fire Department – Wildland webpage:

<https://www.santafecountynm.gov/fire/wildland>

The Santa Fe County Wildland division has a free home owners guide available on our website:

<https://www.santafecountynm.gov/media/files/SantaFeRSGGuide2017.pdf>

You can learn how to provide defensible space for your home and how to prepare your family for an emergency. If you need further assistance, you can request a property assessment by contacting Remington Gillum at rgillum@santafecountynm.gov

The Santa Fe County Fire Department has developed a new Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A CWPP is used to identify and mitigate wildfire hazards to communities. In 2008, Santa Fe County completed its first CWPP, a process that has facilitated valuable collaboration among stakeholders. The 2020 CWPP will build on these collaborative efforts to reduce wildfire risk by reviewing and identifying new priority areas for wildfire protection efforts. View the plan at:

<https://www.santafecountynm.gov/media/files/CWPP%20Online%20Version%20with%20signatures.pdf>

Home Fire Preparedness



Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries.
- If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT

Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

FACTS

- ① A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- ① In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine calls per hour.

Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

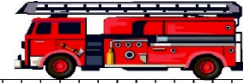
FACTS

- ① A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ① Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ① Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

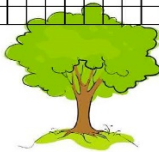




HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



Large grid area for drawing a home fire escape plan.



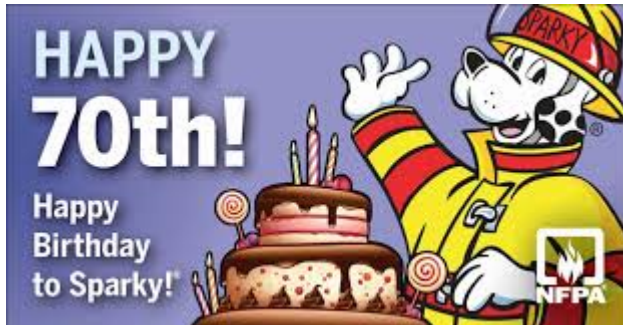
Have 2 Ways out of every room
In an emergency dial 9-1-1
Speak Clearly, Speak Slowly

Give your name _____
Know your phone # _____
Know your address: _____

Safe Meeting Place: _____

Link to the home fire escape worksheet

<https://www.santafecountynm.gov/pages.php?pageID=940>



ALERT Santa Fe
Emergency Alerts and Notifications

Sign Up Now

Register for Emergency Communication Notifications

Alert Santa Fe is the official emergency notification system used by the Santa Fe County to communicate with residents during emergencies.

<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/registration/registrationLanding.action>

March was Sparky the Fire Dog's 70th Birthday

Home Fire Safety Tips for Older Adults

Escape Planning for Older Adults



Your risk of dying in a home fire is greater as you get older. Knowing what to do if there is a fire can make a big difference.

- ✓ Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- ✓ Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- ✓ Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- ✓ Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reach next to your bed.
- ✓ Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.



Adults 65 and over are
twice as likely to die in fires

For more information and free resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov.



Click here to
add image.



Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Specific-groups-at-risk/Older-adults>

Home Fire Safety Tips for People with Disabilities

Fire Safety for People With Disabilities



Millions of Americans live with physical and mental disabilities. It is important to know your risk and build your fire prevention plans around your abilities.

- ✓ Have smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Interconnect your alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- ✓ If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use smoke alarms with a vibrating pad, flashing light or strobe light. These accessories start when your alarm sounds.
- ✓ Test your alarms every month.



Plan your escape around your abilities.

- ✓ Know two ways out of every room.
- ✓ If possible, live near an exit.
- ✓ You'll be safest on the ground floor if you live in an apartment building.
- ✓ If you live in a multistory home, sleep on the first floor.
- ✓ Being on the ground floor and near an exit will make your escape easier.

For more information and free resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov



Click here to
add image.



Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/disabilities.html>

Wellness Series

World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Use link below for more information. <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/frequently-asked-questions>

Understanding wellness as a collection of factors and not just the health of an individual helps in the understanding of the complexity of an individual characterized as a whole. Each Dimension will be broken down giving information regarding the step, and resources to integrate each point into your daily life. Daily reflection and practice of the Eight Dimensions of Wellness will allow the individual to have a broad understanding of their overall health, wellbeing, and set attainable goals to live a more fulfilling life.

The steps will be found in a monthly Fire Bulletin located at:

https://www.santafecountynm.gov/fire/fire_preventionrisk_reduction/bulletin_fire_newsletter

Eight Dimensions of Wellness

