

# Fire and Life Safety Tips

**Call 911** – Don't hesitate to call 911 when you are experiencing an emergency. Fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents and crimes are all examples of situations when you may need assistance from Fire or Police. Make sure you give the location and nature of the emergency to the dispatcher and follow any instructions they give you.

**Smoke and CO Detectors** – Having and maintaining proper **SMOKE** and **CARBON MONOXIDE** detectors in your homes is one of the most important things you can do to protect yourself and your family. Smoke and CO detectors have a proven track record of saving lives. They provide protection 24/7 and will alert you to dangerous situations early enough for you to get to safety. Detectors are available in a variety of configurations to meet the requirements of different areas in homes and businesses. Some versions are powered by conventional or long-life batteries; others are wired directly in to your homes electrical system. Please contact us for advice on the locations and types of detectors you should have or if you need assistance with the installation of new detectors or help maintaining existing ones.

**Fire Drills and Escape Plans** – you should develop and practice a plan to ensure that all members of your family know what to do in the event of a fire or other emergency in your home. It's critical that everyone knows how to get out of the house rapidly, gather in a predetermined safe place, and call 911 from a neighbor's house. Stay safe, once you exit your home, stay in your family meeting place and let first responders know if anyone is missing. Contact the fire department for assistance in creating your emergency plan.

**Fire Extinguishers** – Having a fire extinguisher readily available can be an important part of fire safety in your home. If you choose to use an extinguisher remember it is important to have the proper type of extinguisher and be familiar with its operation. Above all please remember that home extinguishers are meant for small fires only, don't expose yourself to unnecessary danger and always **call 911** from a safe location for any fire in your home.

**Files of Life** – A file of life provides a convenient method for you to keep important medical and emergency contact information readily available for Fire/EMS, and Police personnel. They are free and are available at the District 2 Fire Station. They come in a red plastic case with a magnetic strip and are normally mounted on the refrigerator. If you need help obtaining one or would like assistance filling one out please call us.

**House Numbering** – Make sure that first responders can quickly find you in an emergency. House numbers should be easily visible from the street and at night. There are a variety of affordable options and we will be happy to assist you in selecting and locating appropriate numbering for your home.

**Be Prepared** – Weather emergencies, pandemics, and natural disasters can strike suddenly. Put together a 72 hour survival kit for your family. Make sure you have adequate supplies of food, water, and medicines in the event of power outages or travel restrictions. For comprehensive information go to our links page and visit the FEMA web site.

**Be Informed** – Visit our Links page for information from a variety of state, federal, and national organizations like FEMA, The Massachusetts Fire Marshalls office, and The Red Cross.

**Ask for Help** – Fire Department personnel receive extensive training on Fire and Life Safety issues. Please contact us if you need assistance with any of the things mentioned above. Remember - **Your safety is our first concern.**