**FIRE Safety Times**

**Appliance Safety Life-Saving Tips**
- Regularly inspect your extension cords for fraying and never use an extension cord as permanent wiring.
- Instead of a simple extension cord, get a UL-approved unit with built-in circuit breakers.
- Routinely check your wiring. Look for outlets that don't work, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Never overload outlets or extension cords.
- Immediately repair appliances or lamps that sputter or spark.
- Keep appliances away from wet areas in the kitchen, bathroom, basement and garage.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, never force it into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Don't let children play near electrical space heaters. Keep clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least three feet away from heaters.
- In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out.

**Cooking Fires Life-Saving Tips**
- Never leave cooking unattended. A serious fire can start in just seconds.
- Always wear short, tight-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Turn pot handles inward to avoid spills. Always use a potholder when reaching for handles.
- Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away from flames and hot surfaces.
- Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup which can ignite.
- If a fire breaks out while cooking, put a lid on the pan to smother it. You may also use baking soda. Never throw water on a grease fire.
- Heat oil gradually to avoid burns from spattering grease. Use extra caution when preparing deep-fried foods.
- Place a rubber mat on the floor in front of your stove to give you added traction in case liquids or grease spill.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, toxic fumes may leak into your home.
- Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure all other appliances are turned off.

**Preventing Bedroom Fires Life-Saving Tips**
- Never smoke in bed.
- Replace all mattresses made before the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard. Mattresses made since then are required by law to be safer.
- Keep lighters, matches and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of reach of children. Children are one of the highest risk groups for death in residential fires.
- Keep lit candles away from bedding, curtains, papers and anything else that can ignite easily.
- Do not run electrical cords under your bed or trap them against a wall where heat can build up. And avoid overloading extension cords.
- Take extra care when using portable heaters. Keep bedding, clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least three feet away from space heaters.
- Only use lab-approved electric blankets and warmers. Check to make sure the cords are not frayed.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two escape routes from their bedrooms, and practice these often.

**Just the facts**
- More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 25,000 are injured.
- Eighty percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 700 Americans each year and injure 3,000 more.
- The bedroom is the most common room in the home where electrical fires start.
- Some electrical fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects, but many more are caused by misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. It is also the leading cause of fire injuries.
- Each year about 300 people are killed and $280 million in property is destroyed in fires attributed to children playing with fire.
- Having a working smoke detector more than doubles one's chances of surviving a fire.
- Install a smoke detector on every level of your home. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year. This will save lives, possibly yours.
- Have a ABC rated fire extinguisher in your kitchen and shop area and be trained in its use. This can save property and lives.

**CALL FOR DEPARTMENT AND BUILDING SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES**
If you are one or are interested in becoming one contact Risk Management at 6496

**OCTOBER is Prevention Month**
For additional information on fire safety please refer to the following Web links:
- [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)
- [www.firesafety.gov](http://www.firesafety.gov)