



Fire Safety

2019 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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2

**MINUTES
THE TIME
YOU HAVE
TO ESCAPE
A FIRE IN
YOUR HOME**

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Smoke is More Deadly Than Fire

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make you drowsy, disoriented and short of breath.

The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. You may not wake up in time to escape. 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.

- 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.



Close Before You Doze!

During a fire, closing the door, could have a potentially life-saving impact.

Research conducted by the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI), proved that closing the door could have potentially life-saving impact during a fire. Modern synthetic construction materials, home furnishings, and contemporary layouts allow fire to spread and become toxic very quickly.

But a closed door can slow the spread, reduce toxic smoke levels, improve oxygen levels and

decrease temperatures dramatically – and that could make a life-saving difference in your home.

Understanding how important it is for people to see for themselves how significant of an impact a closed door can have in a house fire, UL FSRI gathered a

group of unsuspecting everyday people to ask them about their safety concerns and what they perceive to be true about house fires.

The group witnessed a house burned with one bedroom door open and one closed. Afterwards, the group was able to tour the house and see the real-life impact of a closed door compared to an open door.

The demonstration and reactions were captured and can be viewed at CloseYourDoor.org.



Escape Planning

Only 1 of 3 households have developed and practiced an escape plan

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- ◇ Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- ◇ Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- ◇ Have an outside meeting place (like a light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- ◇ Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- ◇ Practice using different ways out.

◇ Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

◇ Close doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS

◇ If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.

◇ If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO

under the smoke to your way out.

◇ Call the fire department from outside your home.

One-third of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Fire Extinguishers 101

The first thing to do when choosing a fire extinguisher is to decide which rooms in your house need one. You should keep at least one on each level of your house. Make sure you keep fire extinguishers handy where fires are more likely to start, like in the kitchen and garage.

There are five classes of fire extinguishers and each class can put out a different type of fire.

Class A - ordinary combustibles such as wood and paper

Class B - flammable liquids like grease, gasoline and oil

Class C - use only on electrically energized fires

Class D - designed for use on flammable metals

Class K - fires in cooking oils and greases

Multipurpose extinguishers can be used on different types of fires and will be labeled with more than one class, like A-B, B-C or A-B-C.

Now that you know how many extinguishers you need and what types to get, you can head to the hardware store. Look for fire extinguishers that you can easily lift. Larger extinguishers may pack more power, but you must be able to use it properly.

Once you've made your purchases, familiarize yourself with the fire extinguisher directions so you'll be prepared in case you need to put out a fire. Typically, fire extinguishers are fairly easy

to use in the case of a fire. Most of the types operate using the P.A.S.S. technique:

P. Pull the pin on the fire extinguisher in order to break the tamper seal.

A. Aim the fire extinguisher low, with the nozzle pointed at the base of the fire.

S. Squeeze the handle of the fire extinguisher to release the extinguishing agent.

S. Sweep the nozzle from side to side while pointed at the base of the fire until it is extinguished.

If the fire re-ignites, repeat the last 3 steps.



Wildfire Safety

Wildfires are a real threat to us here in California. Here are some steps you can take to keep you and your loved ones safe during fire season.

Prepare NOW

- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Know your community's evacuation plans and find several ways to leave the area. Drive the evacuation routes and find shelter locations. Have a plan for pets and livestock.
- Gather emergency supplies, including N95 respirator masks that filter out particles in the air you breathe. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.
- Keep important documents in a fireproof, safe place. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Find an outdoor water source with a hose that can reach any area of your property.
- Create a fire-resistant zone that is free of leaves, debris, or flammable materials for at least 30 feet from your home.

For more information about wildfires, visit [ready.gov/wildfires](https://www.ready.gov/wildfires)

Survive DURING

- Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so.
- If trapped, then call 911 and give your location, but be aware that emergency response could be delayed or impossible. Turn on lights to help rescuers find you.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Use an N95 masks to keep harmful particles out of the air you breathe.
- If you are not ordered to evacuate but smoky conditions exist, stay inside in a safe location or go to a community building where smoke levels are lower.

Be Safe AFTER

- Listen to authorities to find out when it is safe to return, and whether water is safe to drink.
- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers. The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire. Consider the danger to pets and livestock.
- Send text messages or use social media to reach out to family and friends. Phone systems are often busy following a disaster. Make calls only in emergencies.
- Wear a NIOSH certified-respirator dust mask and wet debris down to minimize breathing dust particles.



Emergency Evacuation Kit

After an emergency, you may need to survive on your own for several days. Being prepared means having your own food, water and other supplies to last for at least 72 hours. A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers such as plastic bins or a duffel bag.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water - one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

For more information about preparing an evacuation kit, visit [ready.gov/build-a-kit](https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit)



Camp Pendleton Base Safety Center

Building 16142 on "A" Street

Commanding General's
Safety Hotline: 760.763.7233

Base Safety Center:
760.763.2366/5328

Our Mission

The Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton Safety Center's mission is to promote the combat readiness of operating forces by providing safety support services. Our goals are to train all Marine Corps Base commands and organizations in occupational safety and health; mishap reduction and Federal Employees' Compensation Act costs through an aggressive safety program, and to exceed the reduction goals set by the Secretary of Defense, and Headquarters Marine Corps Safety Division. Our customers are Base personnel, the operating forces, extended Marine Families, tenant commands, and occasional Reserve components.

SAFETY = FORCE PRESERVATION

Fire Safety at P2P Lodging

Peer-to-peer (P2P) lodgings — privately owned, short-term rental properties — represent a fast-growing alternative to hotels and motels. But do P2P properties offer the same level of fire safety that hotels and motels do?

Code changes that brought about safer hotels and motels have, for the most part, not found their way into the U.S. P2P hospitality sector. P2P lodging is not as uniformly regulated as hotels and motels. Most P2P properties are private homes, so they may fall under local requirements for residential structures.

One in five Airbnb properties do not report having a smoke alarm and about one half do not list a CO alarm. By contrast, all hotels are required to have smoke alarms.

Act as your own safety advocate and know before you go. Check for working smoke alarms in bedrooms, fire extinguishers, and doors and windows that open for example.

For more information about fire safety when lodging at an Airbnb or similar, visit nfpa.org or usfa.fema.gov.

FIND OUT MORE HERE:

⇒ **Camp Pendleton Base Safety Center**

www.pendleton.marines.mil/Staff-Agencies/Safety-Center/

⇒ **Naval Safety Center**

www.public.navy.mil/NAVSAFECEN

⇒ **NFPA**

www.nfpa.org

⇒ **Red Cross**

www.redcross.org

⇒ **DHS**

www.ready.gov

