Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

John R. Kasich, **Governor**
Jacqueline T. Williams, **Director**

8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

www.com.ohio.gov

Get Out Alive And Survive

Are You Prepared?

FIRE is Hot, Fast and Deadly within minutes, the temperature in a room can reach 2,000 degrees. You can't survive in that kind of heat. Furniture, carpeting and other materials give off deadly toxic gases when they burn. If you follow some simple fire safety practices, you can Get Out Alive and Survive.

Plan Ahead - Get Out Alive

GETTING OUT

If you get caught in a fire situation, survival is your top priority. You should:

- **FEEL THE DOOR**
- If the door is HOT, don't open it
- Go to a window and call for help
- If the handle is COOL, open cautiously
- Check for smoke or fire before going out

- **GET OUT OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PHONING FOR HELP**

- **PULL THE FIRE ALARM ON YOUR WAY OUT**

- **DON'T LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER UP YOUR STUFF**
- Knock on doors as you leave
- Yell "FIRE" as you leave
- Don't stop or stray from your exit path as you leave

- **CRAWL LOW TO THE FLOOR**
- Thick smoke can make it impossible to see anything
- Toxic chemicals from smoke can be deadly in seconds
- Heat and gases rise – the freshest air is closeto the floor

Get Low and Go

- **CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU**
- You may keep the fire from spreading
- You may protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage

- **IF YOU CAN'T GET OUT, GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION**
- Close and seal your door – try to keep the smoke out
- Hang a sheet from the window, but keep the window closed if smoke is coming in from a lower level
- Yell and scream

Fire Safety is YOUR Responsibility

PREVENTION

Fires can be prevented if you take some simple precautions:

- **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE PREVENTION**
- Clean up immediately after parties and take all trash outside
- Assign a non-impaired "event monitor"
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from items that can burn
- Put out candles and incense when un-attended
- Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly
- Don't smoke while tired or impaired
- Keep grills away from the building

PROTECTION

You can also protect yourself from becoming trapped in a fire situation by following some important suggestions:

- **CHECK SMOKE ALARMS**
- Test them monthly
- Install new batteries twice a year – Change Your Clock - Change Your Batteries

- **PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES**
- Know where all exits are located in the building
- Know two ways out from every room

- **TAKE ALL FIRE ALARMS SERIOUSLY**
- Do not ignore fire alarms
- Do not wait to see fire or smoke
- Do not worry about grabbing your stuff
- If you keep getting false alarms, call the fire department for assistance

Tampering with smoke alarms or pulling false alarms are dangerous pranks and may be a criminal offense.

MAKE A PLAN

Make a plan for your own fire safety and protection:

- Find all possible exits from your room or residence
- Make a fire escape route plan that includes two escape routes from each room
- Designate a Meeting Place outside so that all of your roommates can be accounted for
- Practice your fire escape route plan – most fires occur at night when it is dark and difficult to see
- Tell your roommates about your plan
- Conduct a "Home Safety Inspection" for fire and safety hazards
- Call your local fire department for more information

SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

A residential fire occurs every 30 minutes in Ohio. How safe is the place you are living in? Every checked box ("YES" response) indicates a positive fire safety situation. However, every unchecked box ("NO" answer) points to a potential fire hazard that needs to be corrected.

Careless Smoking Hazards

- Smoking materials and matches are completely out before disposing of them
- Plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays are available in each room
- A "No Smoking in Bed" rule observed
- Ash trays are used outside (to avoid mulch fires)

Electrical Hazards

- Adequate circuit breakers (or fuses) are available for the equipment used
- All of the electrical equipment and appliances used have the UL label from Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc.
- Adequate electrical outlets are available in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords
- Multiple outlet extension cords have a built in circuit breaker
- Extension cords are for temporary use only, 3-pronged type (grounded), and of the right size to handle the power needed
- Extension cords are in the open and not run under rugs or through partitions or openings

Smoke Detectors – Fire Protection Systems

- A smoke detector is installed on every level and inside sleeping areas
- Smoke detectors are tested monthly
- Batteries are changed twice a year
- Smoke detectors are less than 10 years old
- A carbon monoxide detector is installed
- In a public building, fire alarm pull boxes are located near exits and unobstructed
- In sprinklered buildings, sprinkler heads are unobstructed

Heating and Cooking Hazards

- The heating system has been inspected and serviced in the past year
- The fireplace is equipped with a sturdy metal fire screen
- The fireplace or wood burning stove's chimney has been cleaned within the past year
- All vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, ceilings and walls are properly installed
- All combustible materials are at least 3 feet away from any space heater
- The kitchen stove, including the oven, is kept clean of grease
- Food, plastic containers, etc., are not stored in the oven
- The coffee pot, heating element, and other appliances are unplugged when unattended
- Grills are only used outdoors and away from the building

Housekeeping Hazards

- Floors and exit ways are clear of clutter
- Room doors are kept closed (Helps keep fire and smoke from spreading)
- Candles and other open flame items are extinguished when you leave the area
- Paint and other combustible materials are kept in tightly closed containers away from a heat source
- Outside areas around the building are kept clear of leaves, debris and combustible materials

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1-888-243-0305
TTY/TDD: 1-800-750-0750
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