FIRE SAFETY

There are general fire safety precautions you should follow regardless of where you live or work. Taking time to review tips about the following fire safety issues can help you create a safer and more secure environment for you, your friends, and family.

Escape Plans

Because fire is a risk in every building — whether you sleep, study, or work there — you should always have an escape plan.

Escape Plan Basics

- Include two ways out of every room in all escape plans
- Designate a location to meet outside the building
- Conduct a roll call to verify everyone has escaped the building

Electricity

Electrical distribution equipment poses serious fire safety threats that can even be fatal, especially when equipment is used incorrectly.

Electrical Safety Basics

- Protect electrical outlets with plastic safety covers if small children are present in your home
- Never operate electrical appliances around bathtubs, showers, or puddles of standing water
- Use ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection when working where water is near electricity, to protect against electric shock. This means you should use GFCIs in your kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, and outdoor locations
- Replace or repair frayed, loose, or otherwise damaged cords on all electronics
- Shut off the circuit and have it checked by an electrician if any switches feel warm
- Take note of any discolored switch plates, because discoloration could indicate that the electrical wiring behind the switch plate is overheating
- Remember: symptoms of potential wiring problems include household lights that dim or flicker, a TV picture that shrinks in size, frequent blown fuses, or circuit breakers that trip frequently

Extension Cords and Surge Suppressors

- Never use an extension cord as a replacement for permanent wiring
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets
- Make sure power strips and surge suppressors are designed to handle the loads you will be using them for

There are many more other useful tips you can find at NFPA.org

Officer’s signature:

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