



FACTSNOTES™

Spring 2006

SPRINGTIME SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR HOME & FAMILY

Put Fire Safety First This Spring!!!

This year, while doing your spring cleaning, make it a priority to also conduct a spring fire safety check of your home to ensure that you and your home are as safe as possible. Unfortunately, home fires kill more than 4,000 people in America each year. However, you can reduce the likelihood of a fire in your home, and protect you, your family and your property from devastation by following these easy tips.

Tip #1: Practice Spring Safety While Spring Cleaning!

As you make your way from room to room with your feather duster, your vacuum and mop, pay special attention to the following "Hotspots," and correct any potentially dangerous situation with the "Quick Fixes" below.

CONCERN:

ELECTRICAL WIRING & OUTLETS

Overloaded circuits and extension cords pose a real fire threat. Misusing electrical cords (such as running them under rugs, or putting them in high traffic areas) can result in electrical fires, which account for thousands of fires each year.

QUICK FIX:

Replace frayed wires or cords immediately. If you see overloaded wall sockets, remove some of the items and find a new outlet for them. Remove any cords running under carpeting or rugs. Do a quick scout of all rooms in your home to make sure no cords are trapped against walls (where heat can build up.)

CONCERN:

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Most often the electrical appliances

which cause electrical fires are electric stoves, ovens, dryers, heating units, stereos and televisions.

QUICK FIX:

Always unplug electric appliances when not in use. Confirm that no flammable materials are within three feet of an electrical heater. Pay particular attention to stored items in basements and attics, by making sure they are far away from heaters.

CONCERN:

KIDS AND MATCHES/LIGHTERS

Children playing with matches or lighters are responsible for more than 35,000 fires annually in the United States.

QUICK FIX:

You may learn of your children's curiosity with fire while you're spring cleaning. Look under all beds, and in "secret places" such as closets or basements, where your children may leave evidence that they have played with matches or lighters. Lock up all lighters or matches and reiterate to your children that fire is absolutely not a toy.



Insider Tip of the Month:

Sprinklers Save Lives.

But Save You Money Too!!

Home fire sprinklers not only increase your chance of survival when used in conjunction with smoke alarms, but they might save you money too!

Home fire sprinklers are now very affordable. Better yet, installing fire sprinklers can lower your homeowners' insurance rates, and certainly increase your property value when you sell your home. Save your life and your money by installing a sprinkler system this spring!!!

Visit us today at www.upstateinspection.com for all your inspection needs!

Tip #2:

Be Smart! Use Smoke Alarms:

SMART HOME OWNERS OWN SMOKE ALARMS!

The facts don't lie. Smoke alarms save thousands of lives each year. The likelihood that they will save your life greatly increases when you:

- *Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home, including the basement and/or attic.*
- *Install smoke alarms both inside your sleeping area, and outside of it.*
- *Install the smoke alarm 6-8" from the ceiling on side walls, to allow for earliest possible smoke detection.*

ADD SMOKE ALARM MAINTENANCE TO YOUR SPRING CLEANING LIST.

Smoke alarms are very easy to care for. They require only two minor scheduled tasks:

1. Replace the batteries once a year. You may opt to schedule this yearly change to coincide with your spring cleaning, or perhaps schedule the change for an easily remembered day, such as your birthday or anniversary.
2. Keep them Clean. Just as you dust your bookshelves, make sure that your smoke alarm is free from dust and debris, as it may interfere with proper functioning. A quick vacuum around the smoke alarm regularly will do the trick.

Tip #3:

Plan Your Fire Protocol NOW!

PLANNING NOW, CAN PREVENT TRAGEDY LATER.

Meet with everyone in your family to design a fire safety protocol.

This should include:

- Educating your family about fire. This includes reminding them to stay low to the floor during a fire, and reinforcing that they should NEVER open a door that feels hot.
- Practice escaping from each room in the house. Make every member of your family participates in "practice runs" so that all understand how to escape from each room.
- Plan your safety meeting spot. Select a location outside of the home where you will meet after escaping a fire. This could be in your neighbors' front yard, across the street, or three doors down on the sidewalk, but it should be a minimum of 100 yards from the home.



Upstate Home Inspection Service

Dan Osborn

Owner

518.877.0242

dosborn@upstateinspection.com

With Upstate Home Inspection's Home History Program, we will perform a fire safety test on your home, and let you know of possible areas for concern during our annual "check-up." Contact us at 518.877.0242 or via email dosborn@upstateinspection.com for more details.

Visit us today at www.upstateinspection.com for all your inspection needs!