HARTLAND DEERFIELD FIRE AUTHORITY



FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE

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Fire Safety Away From Home

Hotels/Motels

- 1. Choose a hotel/motel that is protected by smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, and fire sprinklers. Some versions of carbon monoxide alarms are available for travel.
- 2. When you check in, ask the desk clerk what the fire alarm sounds like. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, ask for a room equipped with a smoke alarm and accessories that will awaken you or a portable smoke alarm made specifically, for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. You may want to consider bringing one with you.
- 3. Read the escape plan posted in your room.
- 4. Count the number of doors between your room and the nearest two fire exits. If the exit doors are not alarmed, open them to be sure they are unlocked.
- 5. Keep your room key by your bed and take it with you if there is a fire. If you cannot escape, you may have to return to your room.
- 6. If you hear an alarm, leave and close all doors behind you.
- 7. Use the stairs to get out. Typically, you should not use the elevator unless directed by the fire department. Some buildings are equipped with elevators intended for use during an emergency situation. These types of elevators will clearly be marked that they are safe to use in the event of an emergency.
- 8. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to the exit.
- 9. If all escape routes are blocked, return to your room. Shut off fans and air conditioners. Stuff wet towels or bedding in the cracks around the doors and vents. Call 9-1-1 to let them know your location. Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or light-colored cloth.
- 10. Bring a flashlight; keep it near your bed.

Peer-to-Peer Hospitality

- 1. Working smoke alarms are in every sleeping room. They are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home.
- 2. Working smoke alarms are interconnected, if possible. When one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- 3. Portable fire extinguishers are in the home and are easy to reach. Working carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are outside each separate sleeping area. They are on every level of the home and in other locations as required by laws, codes, or standards.
- 4. The owner has posted a floor plan. It notes all escape routes and exits and provides emergency contact information.
- 5. Everyone knows the address of the home.
- 6. Everyone staying in the home has identified two ways out of every room and how to escape in an emergency. All doors and windows that lead outside are able to be opened.

- 7. An outside meeting place has been chosen. It is a safe distance away from the home. Everyone knows how to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a mobile phone from outside.
- 8. If smoking is allowed, a smoking area has been designated and is well away from the structure. Deep, sturdy ashtrays have been provided.
- 9. All pathways are free and clear of tripping hazards. Electrical outlets are free from multiple cords and adaptors.
- 10. The stovetop is clear. Anything that can catch fire is not near the stovetop, such as curtains and towels.

Motor Home, Camper, and Recreation Vehicle Safety

- 1. Install smoke alarms. Make sure they work.
- 2. Stay in the kitchen while you cook. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- 3. Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.
- 4. Refrigerators, furnaces, ovens, and stovetops often use propane. Check them for leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- 5. Have your propane system inspected to make sure it still works properly. Know two ways out. Make sure windows open easily.
- 6. Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan.
- 7. Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping. Before setting up a campfire, make sure it is allowed.
- 8. If campfires are allowed, they need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- 9. Have your vehicle serviced by a qualified mechanic.
- 10. Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board. Only adults who know how to operate it should use it. Only use it if the fire is small and can be contained. Make sure everyone else is leaving. Make sure someone is calling the fire department.

Safety in Places of Public Assembly

- 1. Before you enter, take a good look around. Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable? Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit? Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?
- 2. Have a communication plan. Identify a relative or friend to contact in case of emergency or if you are separated from family or friends.
- 3. Plan a meeting place. Pick a meeting place outside to meet family or friends with whom you are attending the function. If there is an emergency, be sure to meet them there.
- 4. When you enter, take a good look around. When you enter a building, you should look for all available exits. Some exits may be in front and some in back of you. Be prepared to use your closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit.

- 5. Check for clear exit paths. Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths are blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if it is not immediately addressed. Call the local fire marshal to register a complaint.
- 6. Do you feel safe? Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.
- 7. During an emergency, react immediately. If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance, immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.
- 8. Get out, stay out! Once you have escaped, stay out. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. Let trained firefighters conduct rescue operations.

Car Fire Safety

- 1. What to do if your car is on fire.
- 2. Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, be sure to use your signal as you make your way to a safe location off the road, such as the breakdown lane or rest stop.
- 3. Once you have stopped, TURN OFF the engine.
- 4. GET everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car for anything.
- 5. MOVE everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- 6. CALL 9-1-1.

How to Prevent a Car Fire

- 1. Have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly, get it checked. A well-maintained car is less likely to have a fire.
- 2. If you must transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.
- 3. Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment.
- 4. Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.
- 5. Drive safely to avoid an accident.
- 6. Know the danger signs, which include cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once; oil or fluid leaks; oil cap not on securely; and rapid changes in fuel or fluid level or engine temperature.