



Safe at Home

Have you done the simplest things that make the biggest difference?

Most of us feel very safe in our home. But do you realize that in reality, two-thirds of fire deaths throughout the country occur in the victim's own home? In fact, we are actually at the greatest risk of fire when we are in our homes.

When it comes to home fires, most deaths occur from inhaling smoke and poisonous gases. The crucial times when most fire deaths occur is from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., when residents are more likely to be sleeping.

What can you do to protect your family? A simple solution...

A study funded by the U.S. Fire Administration found that 75 percent of residential fire deaths and 84 percent of residential fire injuries could have been prevented by **smoke detectors**. Yes, just simple, inexpensive smoke detectors. Current codes require that smoke detectors be installed on every level of the home and inside each sleeping area.

On floors without bedrooms, detectors should be installed in or near living areas, such as living rooms, family rooms or dens. Detectors are not recommended for kitchens or bathrooms.

In addition to properly locating and installing your smoke detectors, they must be properly maintained — which is another very simple process.



- 1 Test your smoke detectors monthly** by pressing the test button located on the face of the detector.
- 2 Replace the smoke detector batteries twice each year.** A good way to remember when to change the batteries is that when you change your clock, change your batteries. *(Set your clock back one hour on October 29.)*
- 3 Replace your smoke detectors every 10 years.** If you need additional smoke detectors, you can stop by either of the Gurnee Fire Stations (4580 Old Grand Avenue or 6581 Dada Drive). Through the SAFER Program, the Department can provide you with a new smoke detector at no charge.

By following these simple guidelines, you will help to ensure that your family is safe at home. A little time, a little money — a lot of protection.

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New Illinois Law Requires Carbon Monoxide Detectors in Homes Starting January 1

Beginning January 1, all Illinois homes are required to have working carbon monoxide detectors. These devices are to be located within 15 feet of sleeping areas.

Why is Carbon Monoxide Dangerous?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is known as a “silent killer.” It is a colorless, odorless and very toxic gas. At lower levels, carbon monoxide poisoning mimics the flu — a person might experience headaches, fatigue, dizziness, nausea or confusion. Symptoms often subside when the person gets into the fresh air. At higher levels or over prolonged exposure, the results can be deadly.

How Could Carbon Monoxide Get into My Home?

Carbon monoxide can come from many sources, including stoves, water heaters, furnaces, space heaters, leaking chimneys, auto exhaust, fireplaces and even tobacco smoke. Keeping your appliances in good shape, and having your

furnace and chimneys properly serviced and cleaned, is important in keeping your home safe.

What Are CO Detectors?

Most carbon monoxide detectors look similar to smoke detectors, and are readily available at most home improvement and hardware stores. Manufacturers even make combination smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, which are approved under the new law. Since you can't see, smell or taste CO, your detector is an important line of defense in keeping your home safe.

What If I Think I Have a Problem?

If you think you may have a carbon monoxide problem, get out of the area and call 911. Firefighters are equipped with devices designed to read carbon monoxide levels.

Remember, if you think you have a problem, don't take any risks. Call 911 right away.



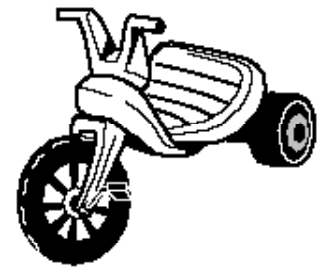
Reproduced from the NFPA's Fire Prevention Week Web site, www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2006 NFPA.

October Brings Fire Prevention Week

This year, Fire Prevention Week is October 8 through the 14. The week, sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been recognized as an opportunity to share important fire safety information.

This year's theme is **Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat**. For tips on creating a safer kitchen, visit www.firepreventionweek.org. (There are even ideas for how you can safely incorporate children into your food preparation tasks — maybe you'll end up with more help in the kitchen!)

Firefighters Partner with KB Toys to Comfort Young Fire Victims



WWFPD works with the Gurnee Fire Department to provide fire and ambulance coverage to our District. Please see the article at lower right for more information.

As part of the Gurnee Fire Department's *After the Fire Program*, the Department has been a partner with the American Red Cross and local hotels to support fire victims by providing a free night of accommodations for families that lose their homes to a residential fire. That successful program, which has been in place for many years, has now been expanded.

The Gurnee Fire Department will now partner with KB Toys of Gurnee to provide additional support for families with children that have lost their belongings to a fire. Customers of KB Toys are able to purchase a gift card of \$3 or more, which will be donated to the Gurnee Fire Department's *After the Fire Program*. In the unfortunate event that there is a fire, the Department will distribute the donated gift cards to the family so they can replace

some of the children's toys. The family will also receive a 20 percent discount on purchases.

A fire is a traumatic experience for everyone, especially the younger members of a family. By working with KB Toys, we are able to provide some sense of comfort for the children by helping the family replace some toys that may have been lost in the fire.

Thank you to Jeff Hutler of KB Toys for his hard work and willingness to partner with the Gurnee Fire Department. This is a wonderful program that will make a tremendous difference in the life of a child who has lost their belongings.

WWFPD Board of Trustees



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What Is WWFPD?

The Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District (WWFPD), along with the Village of Gurnee, make up a 32 square mile area stretching from Waukegan to Route 45. The area includes Gurnee Mills mall and Six Flags Great America.

The WWFPD is responsible for providing fire and ambulance coverage for the unincorporated lands within this area, while the Gurnee Fire Department provides service for the neighborhoods within the Gurnee village limits.

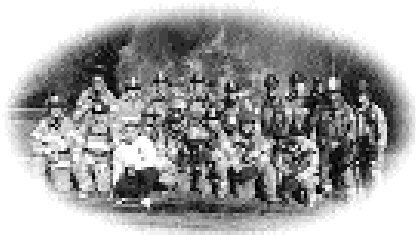
The District provides fire and ambulance coverage by contracting for services with the Gurnee Fire Department. In this way, the Department provides 24-hour fire and rescue services for the entire area, operating out of two stations in Gurnee — 4580 Old Grand Avenue and 6581 Dada Drive.

For information, visit www.wwfpd.com or contact the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District by calling 847-599-6600 or sending an email to districtboard@wwfpd.com.

Map of the District

This updated map shows WWFPD coverage areas in grey.





**Warren-Waukegan
Fire Protection District**

c/o Gurnee Fire Department
4580 Old Grand Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031

Fall 2006

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The Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection Newsletter is published periodically by the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District. Please consider sharing your comments and suggestions.

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www.wwfpd.com

5 Quick Safety Tips

1 Change your smoke detector batteries. When you change your clocks on October 29, put in fresh batteries. It's a quick and inexpensive task that could mean the difference between life and death.

2 Buy and install a carbon monoxide detector. Starting January 1, law requires every home to have them. They're fairly inexpensive and easy to install, with some plugging directly into an electric outlet.

3 Check your furnace and chimney. Chimneys should be inspected by experienced professionals to remove build-up as well as to locate and repair cracks. Burning chimney cleaning logs just isn't enough!

4 Make an "all clear zone" around your heater, fireplace and stove. Keep at least three feet of clear area around any heat-producing object. That means no draperies, decorations, newspapers, etc. Even kids and pets should stay out of "the zone."

5 Put your matches and lighters out of reach. Kids are so curious. When they see you start a fire in the fireplace or light a candle, they may want to do the same. Stay safe by keeping "fire starters" tucked away.