

Preparedness Hints

More About Fire Safety



There are a couple of fire precautions that people should take when traveling by air. Of course, listen to the pre-flight safety brief. When traveling, wear low-heel shoes, long pants, and long sleeves. Avoid synthetic fibers that easily catch fire, wear cotton. Count the rows to the emergency exit so that you can find the exit should the cabin fill with smoke and you can't see. Cover your face with a wet paper towel if possible. (I keep baby wipes in my purse that would serve this purpose.)

When you are staying in a hotel, study the exit routes from your room, the dining area and recreational areas. You may even wish to carry your own smoke detector along.

What follows are more ideas for home fire safety:

Keep a garden hose with a nozzle attached to a water faucet at all times.

Have family members keep whistles by their beds to warn family members in case of fire at night.

Turn off and unplug appliances when you finish using them. (I have a friend whose daughter used an iron in the guest room and then left town for a week. My friend discovered the iron on 4 days after her daughter left! This just happened last week!)

Listen to your smoke detector so everyone can recognize its sound in an emergency. Replace batteries once a year (your anniversary or birthday would be good dates).

A very good fire safety practice in our area is to have several fire extinguishers on hand (on each floor) and teach everyone how to use them. Many of our homes are not near fire hydrants. Check them once a year and replace them when they have expired.

Smoking is the number one cause of fire, it causes 200,000 fires a year and takes about 1,200 lives.

Keep your basement, attic, and other storage areas clean. Do not store old clothes, cardboard boxes, magazines, newspapers, or other items that catch fire easily.

Never run with a burning pan (The flames could spread to you!) Cover with a lid to put out the flames. Baking soda can also be used to put out a kitchen fire.

One last thought about fire: Fire may not creep slowly, it may explode. Hot air mushrooms when it hits the ceiling, and pours through open doorways, filling the rooms with tremendous heat. If the air is hot enough, it will cause the materials it touches to ignite. Consequently, in a fire, books, curtains, bedclothes, furniture, and walls may all be exploding into flames at the same instant in various parts of the house. Your escape margin is drastically cut.



Personal and Family Preparedness

Vision: Each family uses principles of provident living in their daily lives.

Mission: "Increase awareness and practice of home production and storage."