

Safe Living In Your Manufactured Home

The most important feature of any home is something you might not see when you walk through the door. But it could save your life. It's safety. And it comes in all shapes and sizes: smoke detectors; fire extinguisher; escape routes; carefully maintained heating and electrical systems and knowing what to do and where to go in case of fire, flood, tornado or other disaster.

Tornado Safety

- Be sure to keep a transistor radio or weather service radio - with working batteries.
- Pay close attention to weather reports. Know the difference between a watch (when conditions are ripe for a severe weather event) and a warning (when a severe weather event is occurring or is imminent).
- Plan where to go during severe weather - for instance, a community building or public shelter.
- When a tornado warning has been issued, **leave your manufactured home immediately**. Go to your pre-planned safe place or lie down in a low area with your hands covering the back of your head and neck.
- Near the main exit door, keep a family safety kit containing a change of clothes for each family member, a blanket, a first aid kit and a flashlight.
- Be sure your manufactured home is installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and all applicable state and local regulations.

Fire Safety

- Be sure you have properly operating smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- Insure your personal property. Shop around for a company that best meets your needs for renters or homeowner's insurance.
- Plan, with the whole family, at least two escape routes from your manufactured home.
- Practice fire drills regularly, using a smoke detector as a signal to start the drill. Follow your escape plan!
- Keep matches and lighters away from small children. Children tend to be curious about fire and tend to hide when frightened. Fire drills are most important for children between the ages of 2 and 12.
- Be Sure you heating and electrical systems are properly maintained and in good working order.
- Carefully follow the instructions on all appliances and heating units, taking special care not to overload your electrical system.
- Be especially careful that your holiday decorations are safely displayed.

- Store important documents, such as birth certificates, marriage licenses and insurance papers, in a fire-proof box or in the refrigerator, or rent a safety deposit box at your local bank.
- Always crawl close to the floor in smoke.
- Feel each door for heat before opening it.
- If your clothing catches on fire, stop, drop to the floor and roll over and over again to put out the flames.
- Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone. Leave your manufactured home before calling for help.

Flood Safety

- If your manufactured home is located in a flood hazard area, be prepared to go to a safe place on high ground when flood or flash flood warnings are issued for your area.
- Most standard residential policies do not cover flood loss. In flood-prone communities, the National Flood Insurance Program makes flood insurance available for manufactured homes on foundations. See your insurance broker for details.