

COLUMBIA COUNTY

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

"Be Prepared, Keep Informed, Get Involved"

Fire Safety Tips & Facts

- You need working smoke detectors, properly installed, on each level of your home.
- Smoke detectors should be cleaned (vacuum or dust) and tested regularly, perhaps once a month.
- If your smoke detector has a removable or alkaline battery, it should be changed at least once a year.
- Smoke detectors that are older than ten (10) years, since manufacture, should be replaced.
- Some newer smoke detectors have a "lifetime" (about ten years) battery that is not changed. When the seasons change, it's a good time to do a home fire safety inspection to look for and correct any safety hazards.
- If you smell smoke, find yourself in an area where there is smoke, or awakened to hear a smoke detector get low, close to the floor, and crawl toward the nearest way out. Smoke is hot and tends to rise, leaving slightly better conditions closer to the floor.
- On your way out, check any door before opening it. If it's hot don't open it! Go another way.
- Pick a family meeting place outside your home. Make sure it's a safe distance from the building and that everyone in your family knows where to go. By gathering here, you'll be able to tell responders who is out of the building. Call 911 on a cell phone or send someone to go to a neighbor to call 911.
- Never go back into a burning building.
- If your clothing ever catches fire; stop, drop and roll to smother the flames. Try not to run.
- If a small fire is discovered very early, immediately alert all occupants of the building and have them vacate the building. Call 911 or assign someone to call 911 before any attempt is considered to extinguish the fire.
- Only consider using a fire extinguisher if everyone has left the building, 911 has been called, and you can attempt to fight the fire while maintaining easy access to an exit to protect your own safety.
- A personal property inventory should be prepared and kept in a safe location (like a safety deposit box) along with your insurance policy.

For more information:

[Home Fire Safety information, American Red Cross](#)

[Fire Prevention Week information from the National Fire Protection Association](#)