



TDCJ Risk Management's Training Circular

Volume 8 Issue 10

Risk Management Issues

October 2008



OCTOBER FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Are you aware that October is fire prevention month? This is the time of the year when local fire departments visit schools and daycares to help educate children on fire safety.

Remember "Sparky" says to **STOP-DROP-ROLL.**



Though it is a great idea to start teaching children at a young age, everyone in the house needs to know the dangers and plans to prevent fire and injuries. TDCJ also conducts Fire Safety Awareness Training during this month for its Unit staff, Administration staff and Unit offenders. Thousands of people die in house fires or building fires yearly and through education and practice this number can and will be reduced.



TIPS FOR INSTALLING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS CORRECTLY

- ✦ Install smoke alarms as directed (examined and tested to appropriate product safety standards) by a qualified testing laboratory on every level of your home. Make sure there is an alarm in or

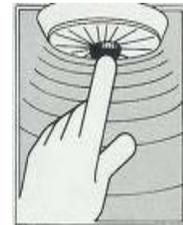


- near every sleeping area.
- ✦ Mount the smoke alarms high on ceilings or walls—remember, smoke rises. Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least 4" away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed 4" to 12" away from the ceiling.
- ✦ Don't install smoke alarms near windows, outside doors, or ducts where drafts might

interfere with operation. Don't paint your smoke alarms; paint or other decorations could keep the alarm from working properly.

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS WORKING PROPERLY

- ✦ Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by using the alarms "test button".



Never use an open flame device to test the alarm as you could burn yourself or start a fire. If the smoke alarm manufacturer's instructions permit the use of an aerosol smoke product for testing, only use one that has been listed by a third-party product testing agency, and utilize it in accordance with the product instructions.

- ✦ Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year, or as soon as the warning “chirps” that the battery is low.



HELPFUL HINTS

- ✦ Schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clock from day-light to standard time in the fall.
- ✦ Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm following manufacturer’s instructions can help keep it working properly.
- ✦ Replace your smoke alarms once every 10 years.
- ✦ Never “borrow” a battery from a smoke alarm.
- ✦ Make sure that everyone in your home can hear and recognize the sound of the alarm and knows how to react immediately.



FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

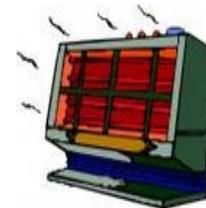
Developing and practicing fire escape plans in your office buildings, units and homes is the help everyone understand what to do in case of an emergency and knowing the plan can mean the difference between life and death. Fire can spread very quickly through an area. It is important that everyone be prepared to react.

- ✦ Ensure everyone in your office, building, and homes know the evacuation routes and the exit door locations, including windows.
- ✦ Test all smoke alarms monthly to ensure that they work. Replace batteries, as needed.
- ✦ Make sure everyone understands where the area of refuge is located.
- ✦ ***Remember to get out first***, then call for help. ***Never go back inside for anything,*** until the fire department gives the OK.
- ✦ Once you are out, stay out, and away-leave the fire fighting to the professionals.



HAZARD HUNTING

- ✦ Replace or repair any electrical device with a loose, frayed, or broken cord.
- ✦ Heaters should be UL listed and the circuit capable of supporting the additional electrical load. The use of surge protectors may be used as long as they do not cause circuits to trip. All appliances should have the approval of the Warden or Department head prior to use. Per the Life Safety Code, 15-7.6, “Portable spaces heating devices shall be prohibited in all detention and correction occupancies”.
- ✦ Give space heaters plenty of space. Space heaters should be at least three feet away from anything that could burn. Always make sure to turn heaters “OFF” when leaving the area.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

Remove fire extinguisher from mounting

- ◇ **P**ull pin-This allows you to activate the extinguisher.
- ◇ **A**im-hold hose and point at the base of the fire.
- ◇ **S**queeze-The trigger mechanism to release the extinguishing agent.
- ◇ **S**weep-Back and forth at the base of the fire.

THIS IS FIRE!

FIRE IS FAST!

- ⇒ There is little time to respond. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or office area. In minutes an area can be engulfed in flames. Most fires occur in the home when people are asleep. If you wake up to a fire, you won't have time



to grab valuables because fires spread. There is only time to escape.



FIRE IS HOT!

- ⇒ Heat is more threatening than flames. A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super hot air can scorch your lungs. In 5 minutes a room can get so hot that everything in it ignites at once: this is called flashover.

FIRE IS DARK!

- ⇒ Fire isn't bright, it's pitch black. Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around the home you have lived in for years.



FIRE IS DEADLY!

- ⇒ Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire uses up the oxygen you need and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make you drowsy, disoriented and short of breath. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door.



Remember having a working smoke alarm and practicing your escape plans, can save your life.

TYPES OF FIRES

CLASS A FIRES

Paper, wood, cloth, etc. Where quenching by water or insulating by general purpose dry chemical is effective.



CLASS B FIRES

Burning liquids (gasoline, oils, cooking fats, etc.) Where smothering action is required.



HAZARDS OF A FIRE

- Burns
- Asphyxiation
- Property damage
- Job loss
- Death



Now that you understand fire prevention, always remember

- Get out first.
- Stay Out.
- Call 911



CLASS C FIRES

Fire in live electrical equipment (motors, switches, appliances, etc.) Where a non-conductive extinguishing agent is required.



FIRE PREVENTION

Store flammable liquids only in approved containers.



No open flames near flammable materials.



Do not overload electrical circuits.



Good House-keeping.

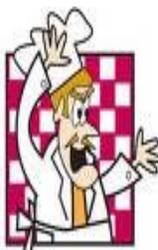


Do not leave appliances in the ON position and unattended.



CLASS K FIRES

Designed specifically for kitchen grease fires hazards and are now required for extinguishers installed in restaurant kitchens.



Store bikes, chairs, desk and other items in proper locations and out of the point of travel to prevent blocked exits and tripping hazards.



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