



The **WH Security** The Power to Protect
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Dispatcher

Tips for Fire Prevention Week

For more than 90 years, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored Fire Prevention Week in order to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred in 1871. This year's Fire Prevention Week will be held October 7-13.

To protect your home from fire, install a smoke alarm on every level of your home, as well as inside bedrooms. Furthermore, test your smoke alarms' batteries once a month and replace them every ten years.

Along with installing smoke alarms in your home, the NFPA offers other important fire prevention tips to follow in order to prevent fire in your home:

Candles: When leaving a room or going to bed, make sure to blow out all candles. Never leave a candle unattended; it could fall over or start an object on fire. Keep all candles at least 12 inches from objects that could burn, and use sturdy candle holders on level, uncluttered surfaces. Also, never let a

candle burn all the way down, as it could start its holder on fire.

Dryers and washing machines:

Never operate your dryer without a lint filter, and make sure to remove any lint after each load of laundry.

Cooking

appliances: Be alert! Never leave your stove unattended. If you must leave the kitchen for any reason, make sure to turn the stove off until you get back. Keep anything that could burn – paper towels, rags and oven mitts – away from your stove top while you are cooking. Avoid using aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave.



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Electrical appliances: Replace or repair loose electrical cords that could fray, as they could be a potential fire hazard. When using an outlet, never overload it and avoid using more than one high-energy consumption appliance in it. Place lamps on level

Fire prevention cont. on back

Ten tips to prevent credit card theft

As we're all becoming more tech savvy, it seems that criminals are getting more high tech, too. Credit card theft is becoming more and more common due to advancements in technology.

There are several ways your credit card information can be stolen. Credit card "skimmers" – devices that read and store credit card information – are small enough to allow potential thieves to carry the device inconspicuously in a pocket. This type of theft most

commonly occurs at restaurants, as servers will typically take your card and run it for you, giving them time to run it through a skimmer as well.

Placing orders via the Internet and mail can also lead to credit card theft because the physical card is not necessary to place the order. Thieves can use the information they acquire to make other remote purchases, which makes activity less detectable than making purchases in person.

Another form of credit card theft is called phishing. This is accomplished through elaborately-designed phony websites – usually claiming to be credit card companies or banks – that ask for your personal credit card or bank information.

Of course, credit card theft isn't only done by tech-savvy individuals.

Credit card theft cont. on back

Be mindful of carbon monoxide this winter

CO is an odorless, invisible gas produced from the combustion of fossil fuels, which is how heat is produced in furnaces and ovens that are fueled by LP or natural gas. The CO produced from these types of sources, if not properly ventilated, can cause harm to people and animals.

There are ways to protect your home from this harmful gas. CO detectors are available that will make a loud noise if CO levels in your home rise above a certain point. These sensors will alert your home's occupants of a problem.

However, if you'd like to be alerted of a CO leak while you're away, you can have a CO sensor installed as a part of your security system. By doing this, your CO sensor will be monitored 24/7 just like the other sensors in your home.

For more information about protecting your home from CO, check out WH Security's blog at <http://bit.ly/rU1U5X> or call a representative at (763) 477-3664.

Sign up for alarm alerts online

Sign up to receive free alarm activity alerts via email or text message.

Just go to www.wh-security.com, click on "My account," then "Receive alarm alerts" and fill out the online form.



Tips for Fire Prevention Week

Fire prevention cont. from cover

surfaces away from objects that could burn, and always use bulbs that are the recommended wattage.

Heating appliances: Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, and turn portable heaters off when leaving a room. Have all heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected once a year by a qualified professional.

For smokers: You should always smoke outside in a well ventilated area. However, if you choose to smoke indoors, use a deep, wide ashtray on a sturdy table, and keep all matches and lighters out of a child's sight and reach.

In order to properly put out a cigarette, douse cigarette butts and ashes with water or sand.

WH Security can also provide you with extra protection from fire with monitored smoke detectors. In the event of a fire, these alarms can help emergency services get to your home as quickly as possible, whether you are at home or away. Learn more about WH Security's smoke detectors at wh-security.com.

If you would like more information about the NFPA or Fire Prevention Week, please visit their website at nfpa.org or firepreventionweek.com.

Source: NFPA

Ten tips to prevent credit card theft

Credit card theft cont. from cover

The oldest form of credit card fraud is the theft of your physical card. Skilled pickpockets can take the card from you in any public place without you knowing, and some card numbers are even stolen by sorting through trash and stealing mail.

Below are some tips to help you protect yourself from credit card theft:

1. When possible, pay with cash at restaurants.
2. Don't let your credit card leave your sight.
3. If you don't plan to use your card, leave it at home.
4. Check your accounts for strange activity on a regular basis. If you notice anything unusual, report it to your financial institution right away.
5. Use credit cards instead of debit cards when possible. Credit card charges are easier to dispute, and the \$50 federal liability limitation doesn't extend to debit cards.

6. When you're using your credit card, limit your shopping to trusted stores.
7. For online shopping, use virtual credit card numbers when possible. Many larger credit card companies provide these one-time use numbers to their card holders for secure online shopping. (For more information, contact your credit card provider.)
8. Check your credit report. Watch for inquiries that you weren't aware of, as well as new credit accounts that are not yours.
9. Shred all of your mail – including credit card offers – and don't throw receipts away in public garbage cans.
10. Only give personal information to secure online websites. A secure website should have "https" in the prefix of the Web address, and it should have a lock icon in the status bar of your Web browser.

Follow the above tips, and it will be much less likely that you'll ever have to experience credit card theft.