

The **Sargent County Emergency Management and the Sargent County Fire Districts** want to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable Summer! Below are some general fire safety tips that will help your family enjoy all that summer can offer .



Spring & Summer Fire Safety Tips!

Spring Cleaning

- Test your **smoke and carbon monoxide detectors**, change batteries immediately if needed.

- Inspect **fire equipment and Extinguishers** in and around the home for

Ensure your fire extinguisher is in top condition. If you see anything suspicious things such as a leak in the nozzle, have it repaired or checked by a professional immediately.

- Check for overloaded or damaged **extension cords**, replace where needed.
- Ensure you have an **emergency preparedness kit** in case of incidents such as power outages and flooding.
- Practice your family's **fire escape plan** so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency
- Windows** should be checked to ensure they open and close properly, in case they are needed as an exit
- Properly store **household chemicals** and never mix cleaning agents
- Recycle:** Get rid of old newspapers, magazines and junk mail. These items tend to pile up and can greatly contribute to the severity and spread of fire.
- Check and **clean filters** in above stove hoods.
- Do not allow **children** to get near stoves or fireplaces in the home. Make sure that all flammable and combustible materials are out of their reach. Never allow them to play with matches, candles, or lighters.
- Pull **refrigerator** out and vacuum or dust the coils.
- Always keep **stairs and landings** clear for safe evacuation in event of an emergency.
- Double **check plugs and switches** at home before you leave. If you are going on a trip be sure that everything is unplugged and turned off before you leave the house.
- If your clothes **catch fire**, use the **STOP, DROP** and **ROLL** method. Use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire that is not yet spreading. Call the fire department immediately.
- When checking in at a **hotel, B&B, motel or renting a seasonal property**, do not forget to consider the fire safety of the place. Examine if there are fire exits, firefighting equipment, working smoke detectors and clear signage of the escape route.

Around the house



- Make sure your **address numbers** are up and visible from the street.
- Maintain a clear '**fire zone**' of 10' around structures.
- **Check outdoor electrical outlets** and other electrical appliances for animal nests and to ensure proper wiring.
- Keep **100' of garden hose** with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.
- Remove **leaves and trash** from carports and garages: Combustible materials are dangerous if they are exposed to heated automobile components, especially under the vehicle.
- Clean up and properly **store paints**, pool and yard **chemicals**.
- Check **fuels containers** for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- Let **power equipment** sit for approximately 30 minutes before placing it inside to be sure there is no possibility of fire.
- Some municipalities do not allow **open air burning**. Always check with your local city ordinance or local fire department for questions, instructions and permits.
- When **using a lawnmower**, never fuel it while it is still hot. Give it a few minutes to cool down.
- If your clothes **catch fire**, use the **STOP, DROP** and **ROLL** method. Use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire that is not yet spreading. Call the fire department immediately.
- Make sure that all flammable and combustible materials are out of **Children's** reach. Never allow them to play with matches, candles, or lighters.



BBQ Tips

- **All barbeque grills** must only be used outdoors — using grills indoors or in enclosed spaces is not only a fire hazard, but it exposes occupants to toxic gasses and potential asphyxiation.
- Always **position the grill** well away from combustible objects — the house, buildings, fences, deck railings, tent, landscaping, and anything else that can easily and quickly ignite.
- Keep **your grill cleaned and serviced**. Before you use your grill, Check all **propane tanks** for good connections to prevent leaks and check lines for leaks and damage. Make sure your tank is not overfilled.
- Never leave a **lit grill** unattended and do not allow **children** near or around grill area.
- Always use long handled **grilling utensils and heat resistant oven mitts** to avoid exposure burns from heat and flames.
- Periodically remove **grease build-up** in catch trays to prevent it from igniting.
- Keep a **garden hose** nearby, connected and ready for use in case of a fire.
- Have a **fire extinguisher** in reach of your grilling area and make sure the fire extinguisher is grilling and hot grease compatible. Check your fire extinguisher each grilling season to be sure it is in good working condition. If you find anything wrong with it, replace it immediately.
- Douse **hot coals** with plenty of water before disposing of them. Never put them inside plastic, paper or wooden trash bins or containers.
- If your clothes **catch fire**, use the **STOP, DROP** and **ROLL** method. Use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire that is not yet spreading. Call the fire department immediately.

- Make sure that all flammable and combustible materials are out of **Children's** reach. Never allow them to play with matches, candles, or lighters.

Seasonal Property Fire Safety



This includes but is not limited to cottages, cabins, motorhomes/rvs, boats & houseboats etc.

- Formulate an **escape route** for the cottage, cabin, motorhome/RV, boats & houseboats. Practice fire drills regularly. Make sure you know the **emergency numbers** and that they are accessible to everyone in the area you are camping or staying for seasonal property.
- In boats & houseboats make sure everyone knows where **life jackets** are easily available and that there is enough for all occupants. Make sure the life jackets are in good working condition.
- Test **smoke alarms** at least monthly or each time you return to your seasonal home. Pack a new smoke alarm and extra smoke alarm batteries in case they need replacement.
- Install and ensure **carbon monoxide alarms** in your seasonal home if it has a fuel-burning appliance.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Clean **barbecues** before using them. Keep an eye on lit barbecues and ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets are kept well away from them. Fires can happen when barbecues are left unattended.
- Keep barbecue lighters and matches out of sight and reach of children.
- Remember to bring a **flashlight** with extra batteries.
- Check **heating appliances and chimneys** before using them.
- Check with the **local fire department, emergency management office, or campground management** to determine whether open air burning is permitted before having a campfire or burning brush. If open burning is allowed, fires should be built on bare soil or on exposed rock. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or even a shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times.
- If you must **smoke**, do so outside. Keep a large can with water nearby so cigarette butts can be safely discarded. If you drink, do so responsibly. **Tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption** are contributing factors in many fires and can lead to serious injuries.

- Burn **candles** in sturdy candleholders that will not tip and are covered with a glass shade. When you go out, blow out!
- If outside and your clothes **catch fire**, use the **STOP, DROP** and **ROLL** method. Use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire that is not yet spreading. Call the fire department immediately.
- Use barbecue **grills** away from structures, from the tent, or from anything that can easily catch fire.
- Double **check plugs and switches** in your cottage, cabin, RV, etc before you leave. If you are going to be gone for an extended time or on a picnic be sure that everything is unplugged and turned off before you leave the house.
- Make sure that all **flammable and combustible materials** are out of their reach. Never allow them to play with matches, candles, or lighters.



Fireworks Safety

- To minimize the risk of **fire and burn injury**, the fire service does not recommend family fireworks or informal neighborhood displays.
- The fire service recommends attending public fireworks displays hosted by your municipality or other responsible organizations.
- If you still choose to have a **family fireworks** or an informal neighborhood display, check with your local fire department or community authorities about regulations regarding fireworks. Here are some important safety tips to be followed:
- If your clothes **catch fire**, use the **STOP, DROP** and **ROLL** method. Use a fire extinguisher to put out a small fire that is not yet spreading. Call the fire department immediately.
 - Appoint a **responsible person** to be in charge. Only adults who are aware of the hazards and essential safety precautions should handle and discharge fireworks.
 - **Carefully read and follow the label directions** on fireworks packaging.
 - Always keep a **water hose or pail of water** close by when discharging fireworks.
 - **Discharge fireworks** well away from combustible materials like buildings, trees and dry grass.
 - Keep onlookers a **safe distance away**, upwind from the area where fireworks are discharged.
 - Light only **one firework at a time** and only when they are on the ground. Never try to light a firework in your hand or re-light dud fireworks. For dud fireworks, it is best to wait 30 minutes and soak them in a bucket of water. Dispose of them in a metal container.

- Discharge fireworks only if **wind conditions** do not create a safety hazard.
- Keep **sparklers** away from children. Sparklers burn extremely hot and can ignite clothing, cause blindness and result in severe burns. As the sparkler wire remains hot for some minutes after burnout, it should be immediately soaked in water to avoid injury.
- If someone **gets burned**, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes and seek medical attention, if necessary.
- Make sure that all **flammable and combustible materials** are out of their reach. Never allow them to play with matches, candles, or lighters.



Campfire Safety Tips

All it takes is one spark for things to go wrong. A carelessly abandoned campfire or a campfire built without safe clearance can turn a small fire into a dangerous and fast-moving blaze. Be sure to build your campfire in a way that does not endanger anyone or the surrounding forest. Enjoy a safe campfire by following these campfire safety tips:

- Bring a **fire extinguisher** or fire blanket to your outdoor trip. This way, you can easily extinguish fire before it grows out of hand. Fire accidents can happen anytime and it always pays to be prepared.
- Check with **local Campground management or the Local Fire Department** on open-air burning restrictions and follow local burning regulations. Keep up-to-date on fire bans in the area.
- Never build a campfire on a **windy day**. Sparks or embers from the fire could travel quite a distance setting an unintentional fire.
- Watch the **wind direction** to ensure sparks aren't getting on flammable materials. Put the fire out if wind changes begin to cause concern
- **Build campfires** where they will not spread; well away from tents, trailers, dry grass, leaves, overhanging tree branches or any other combustible.
- Build campfires in **fire pits** provided or on bare rock or sand, if no fire pit is provided.
- Maintain a **6 – 10 foot clearance** around your campfire.

- Build a **campfire surround** with rocks to contain your campfire. Be aware that rocks obtained from the river may explode due to moisture in the rock becoming superheated by the campfire.
- Use crumpled paper and/or **kindling** to start a fire rather than using flammable liquids.
- Never use gasoline as an aid to **starting a campfire**. If a fire starter is required, use only proper lighting fluid and use the lighting fluid sparingly. NEVER PUT IT ON AN OPEN FLAME since the fire can ignite the stream of lighting fluid and the flame will travel up the stream igniting the container in your hand and causing serious injury. Once the lighting fluid has been applied to the firewood, allow a few minutes for the explosive vapours to disperse before lighting. Remove the lighting fluid container a safe distance away before lighting the campfire.
- **Secure** all lighters and matches and keep them out of children's reach.
- Keep **campfires** to a small, manageable size no more than 3 feet high by 3 feet in diameter and don't let it get out of hand.
- Don't **burn garbage** in your campfire. The smell is unpleasant for you and your neighbors, and may attract animals to your campsite.
- Keep all **combustible materials**, including flammable liquids, propane cylinders, lighting fluid, etc. away from the campfire and children.
- Stack **extra wood** upwind and away from the campfire so that sparks from the campfire cannot ignite your woodpile. Have sufficient wood on hand to eliminate the need to leave your campsite to restock.
- Never leave **campfires unattended**. Ensure that a responsible adult is monitoring the campfire at all times. Supervise children around campfires at all times and never allow horseplay near or involving the campfire, such as jumping over a campfire. Do not allow children to run around near a campfire.
- Closely **supervise children** while roasting treats over a campfire. A flaming marshmallow can easily ignite a child's clothing. A heated metal skewer can be a burn hazard, as well as a puncture hazard.
- Loose clothing can easily **catch fire**. Never reach into a campfire to rearrange pieces of wood.
- Teach children how to **STOP, DROP and ROLL** should their clothing catch on fire. Teach children to cool a burn with cool running water for 3 – 5 minutes. Call the fire department immediately if necessary.
- Keep **plenty of water and a shovel** around to douse the fire when you're done. Use caution when applying water to the campfire. Once the water has been applied, stir the dampened coals and douse it again with water. As an added precaution, shovel sand or dirt to cover the dampened coals to smother any remaining embers.
- As little as 1 second contact with a 158°F (70°C) campfire can cause 3rd degree, full thickness **burns**.
- The average campfire can get as **hot** as 932°F (500°C) in as little as 3 hrs.

- The majority of **children** are burned the morning after a fire from coming into contact with hot ashes or embers.
- **A campfire left to burn itself out** or put out with sand only, was still 212°F (100°C) eight hours later. The buried coals and embers retain their heat underground like an oven. There is also a risk that the fire may spontaneously re-ignite. A child may mistake the pile of sand or dirt as a sand castle and attempt to play in it. The temperature, less than 4" below the surface of the sand or dirt can be as high as 572°F (300 °C).
- A campfire put out with water is reduced to 122°F (50°C) within 10 minutes of applying the water and reduced to 50°F (10°C) after 8 hrs. **The safest way to extinguish a campfire is with water.**