

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

FORT GORDON
GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE



Fall 2025

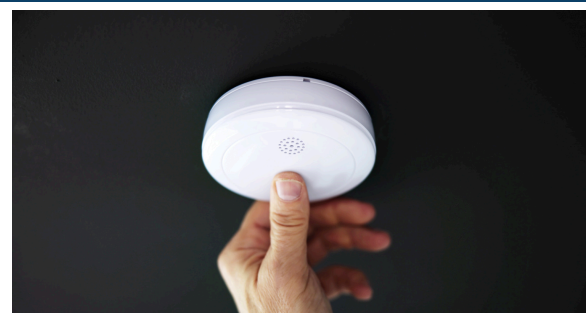


September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month - a time to focus on being ready for emergencies and disasters, whether man-made or natural. Take steps now to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Make a plan that includes communication, build an emergency kit, and stay informed about local hazards and alerts. Always know your risks, and don't forget to include your pets in your plan. Preparing today helps ensure you can respond quickly and safely when the unexpected happens. For more information, visit [redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies)

Topics For Fall Safety

- National Preparedness Month
- Fire Prevention Tips
- Fall Protection in Fall
- Play Smart
- The End of Daylight Savings
- Safe Heating
- Decorating Safely
- Staying Healthy



October is Fire Prevention Month. Check out the infographic on the next page to view tips for fire prevention in your home.

FIRE PREVENTION

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS



From 2010 to 2014, the National Fire Protection Association estimated an average of **45,210 home fires** caused by **electrical failure** or **malfunction**, resulting in an estimated 420 **deaths**, 1,370 **injuries**, and \$1.4 billion in **property damage** each year.

PREVENTION

15



The National Electrical Code has had **15** revisions since 1974, the year the average home was built. **Is your home adequately protected?**



AFCI breakers and receptacles **protect** against arc faults and can **prevent** the majority of **electrical fires**.

52%

of electrical fires are caused by an **arc** or **short circuit**.

1999

Was your home built before **1999**? Call an electrician to ensure your home has **AFCIs**.



Any electrical maintenance should be performed by **qualified electricians** to ensure proper NEC and fire prevention **standards**.

DURING A FIRE EVERY SECOND COUNTS. PLAN 2 WAYS OUT.™

In a fire, **seconds count**. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy.

Test **monthly**, change battery **yearly**, replace alarm every **10 years**.



Have at least one **smoke alarm** on every level, outside each sleeping area, and in every bedroom.



Draw out a **fire escape plan**.



Conduct a **fire drill** twice a year, once in the day, once at night, with everyone in your home, and practice using **different ways out**.

Have **two ways out** of every room and make sure they're always **easily accessible**.



Have a designated **meeting space** outside your home and **never reenter a burning building**.



For more fire prevention tips visit **ESFI.org**



Please share this free resource to save lives

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Put the Fall in Fall Prevention

Prevent falls by:

- Clearing walkways of leaves and debris to reduce slippery surfaces
- Wear sturdy, slip-resistant shoes
- Use extra caution on wet surfaces
- Ensure outdoor lighting is adequate
- Keep indoor floors clean and dry
- Use handrails when going up or down stairs
- Carry items carefully and maintain balance

As autumn arrives, wet leaves, early darkness, and seasonal changes can increase the risk of slips, trips, and falls. Taking a few simple precautions can help keep you safe whether you are at home, at work, or out enjoying fall activities. Stay alert and take steps now to prevent injuries before they happen.



Play Smart in the Fall

Autumn is the perfect time for outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and walking. Don't forget all those fun seasonal events like corn mazes and pumpkin patches. However, cooler temperatures and shorter days can create added risks. Dress in layers to stay warm, wear bright or reflective clothing to stay visible in low light, and keep an eye on the weather before heading out. Plan ahead, bring a flashlight, and take extra care of wet or uneven surfaces. Even in cooler temperatures don't forget to stay hydrated and wear helmets and seat belts. No matter what outdoor fall activities you plan to undertake, remember to put safety first!

Seasons Heatings

As temperatures drop in the fall, many people start using heaters, fireplaces, and other fuel-burning appliances. These can produce carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly if undetected. Having working carbon monoxide detectors in your home is essential to alert you to dangerous levels and keep your family safe. Check your detectors regularly and replace batteries to ensure they are ready for the season.

Safety Tips for the End of Daylight Savings Time

1. Set clocks back one hour and check the time on important devices like alarms and appliances.
2. Increase outdoor lighting around your home or workplace to improve visibility during darker hours.
3. Be extra alert while driving and watch for pedestrians, wildlife, and reduced visibility during early mornings and evenings.
4. Get plenty of rest to prevent fatigue-related accidents.
5. Inspect seasonal equipment such as flashlights, heaters, and emergency kits.
6. Take extra precaution while walking or exercising outdoors by wearing reflective gear or carrying a flashlight.



Decorate the Seasons Safely

Autumn holidays bring fun opportunities to decorate your home, but safety should always come first. When decorating indoors, keep candles, lights, and electrical cords away from curtains, furniture, and other flammable materials. Use flameless candles whenever possible to reduce fire risk, and avoid overloading electrical outlets. For outdoor decorations, secure items to prevent tripping hazards and make sure cords are rated for outdoor use. Always check lights for frayed wires or damage before plugging them in and keep walkways well-lit and clear to ensure safe passage for visitors. By taking a few extra precautions, you can create a festive and safe environment for everyone to enjoy!

Emergency Weather Kit

Fall is known for its shorter days, but it's also a prime time for severe weather like wind and hurricanes. Heavy area storms can easily knock out power or scatter debris, making it difficult to travel outside the home for necessities. Ensure you have a full emergency kit ready to go with non-perishable food, flashlights, water, a first aid kit, extra medications, etc. to see you through an emergency situation.

Autumn Car Safety

Autumn is a great time to check your vehicle's tires, brakes, lights, and windshield wipers to ensure they are in good working order. Keep your fluids topped off, including antifreeze and windshield washer fluid, and make sure your battery is strong enough for colder temperatures. Having your car inspected and performing regular maintenance now can help prevent breakdowns and keep you safe on the road all season long.

Halloween Decorating Safety Tips

Keep two feet and at least one hand on your ladder at all times.

Ensure your power strips and extension cords are for outdoor use.

Keep flammable decorations away from heat sources.

Make sure children have adult supervision for pumpkin carving activities.

Staying Healthy

As cold and flu season approaches, practicing good hygiene is key to staying healthy. Wash your hands frequently, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Keeping surfaces clean, maintaining a healthy diet, and getting enough sleep can also help strengthen your immune system. Small habits can go a long way in preventing illness during the autumn months.

