

Fire Safety Notice

For Homes, Apartments and Businesses

SAFEGUARDS DURING POWER FAILURES

Warning/Caution

While the electricity is off, take care when using alternative lighting, cooking and heating equipment. Please review this information and take all precautions to make sure everyone stays safe.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that can be deadly.

Any device fueled by natural gas, propane, heating oil, kerosene, coal, charcoal, gasoline or wood produces carbon monoxide as a byproduct.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

These alarms are essential for your family's safety. **Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms electrically connected to your home's power supply will not work when the electricity is off, unless they have battery back-ups.** Test your smoke alarms often to find out if they work.

Make sure your home has a battery-operated smoke alarm on every level and a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm.

Home Escape Planning and Emergency Communication

Inform everyone in your home about the fire safety rules they must follow. Conduct regular safety checks of each room and keep a watchful eye on children and older adults. Make sure everyone knows to evacuate the building immediately in event of fire. Practice your escape plan. Have at least one telephone (not cordless) that works during a power failure.

Heating and Cooking

Make sure electric stove elements, ovens, kettles, frying pans, clothes irons, hair-dryers, etc., are OFF or unplugged to prevent fires from starting once powers restored.

Think carefully before you bring a fuel-burning appliance into your home. Any device that burns fuel requires *oxygen* to burn properly and *ventilation* to remove the deadly products of combustion.

Propane and Charcoal Grills

Are only to be used outside and never within 10 feet of the structure.

Portable Space Heaters

- Use only portable space heaters that have been designed for indoor, and where applicable residential use.
- Before using one, review the manufacturer's recommendations for usage and follow the instructions carefully. Only use the fuel for which the appliance is designed.
- Provide adequate ventilation by opening a window slightly, when the heater is in use.
- Before refueling, turn off the heater, wait for it to cool and take the heater outside to refill.
- Keep all heaters at least 1 m (3 feet) away from combustible materials including drapes, carpeting and furniture.
- Turn portable space heaters off when you are not in the room and before going to sleep.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on the use of any extension cords.

Woodstoves, Fireplaces, and Fire Pits

- If you have not used the fireplace or woodstove for a long time, have it checked by a professional technician before using it. The chimney may be blocked or damaged, which could cause a fire or a build-up of carbon monoxide inside the building.

- Always empty ashes into a covered metal container and store them outside, away from combustibles.

Alternative Lighting

- Use flashlights or chemical light sticks instead of candles or lanterns to reduce fire risks.

Matches and Lighters

- Keep all matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children, preferably locked away.

Candles

- Place in secure candleholders, protected by a glass chimney.
- Keep candles away from all combustible materials, such as draperies, paper, etc.
- Place them out of reach of children and pets.
- Avoid walking with a lit candle or taking it into a closet or similar area to look for things.
- Extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Lanterns and Oil Lamps

- Place lamps and lanterns in a secure location, where they cannot be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep them away from combustibles and windy areas.
- Refill lamps and lanterns outdoors away from combustibles and other people.
- Before going to sleep, make sure that all lamps are out.

Never leave any of these appliances unattended.

Portable Generators

- Portable generators should only be used outdoors per manufacturer's specifications. Carefully locate the unit to ensure that fumes do not enter the building.
 - Keep combustibles away from the generator and hot exhaust gases.
 - Store fuels for the generator: outside in an approved container, a safe distance away from the building and generator.
 - Refuel only after shutting the generator down and letting it cool.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations regarding use.
- Hire a licensed electrical contractor or electrician to install the unit. Have the installation inspected by the Electrical Safety Authority.
 - Place a precautionary sign at the meter so proper safeguards can be taken when power is restored.

Fire and Life Safety Systems

Without electricity, fire and life safety systems may not operate as originally designed. The fire alarm system, voice communication system, emergency lighting, fire sprinkler system, standpipe and hose system, and other fire and life safety features rely on electricity to operate appropriately. Some fire and life safety systems are equipped with a secondary source of power consisting of batteries. When this power supply is depleted within these batteries, the system or equipment will no longer work.

The Florida Fire Prevention Code as amended, stipulates that such systems be maintained in operating condition at all times. If power is not promptly restored or where an alternative electrical power supply is not provided, occupant safety and property are at risk from fire.

Alternative Measures and Safeguards

Develop and follow a "Fire Safety Plan" for yourselves and for the building.

All occupants must understand proper fire and life safety practices.

These measures should be implemented for the life safety of building occupants when fire and life safety systems are inoperative or impaired.

Please take all precautions necessary to prevent a tragedy from happening.

A public safety message from:



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