

February 2006

Home Fire Safety Inspection

We provide an array of services to the public, one of which is fire/safety inspections. These are done annually for all businesses within the Mountain View Fire Protection District. What most people don't know is that we also provide the same service to residents by way of a home fire/safety inspection upon private homeowner's request.

What many people also don't know is that the inspection is at no charge and provides a cost efficient way of ensuring safety to your family. Upon inspection, recommendations and suggestions are made regarding ways to 'fix' any problems noted. A re-inspection is also offered at no charge. We hope that by making the experience more pleasurable, more of you will ask for this potential life-saving service.

If you would like to schedule a home fire safety inspection, please call our administration offices, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, at 303-772-0710.

A portion of the safety checklist is included. This may be used as a guide and includes general home safety, as well as fire prevention tips. This service is done in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association standards (NFPA). You've heard me talk about them on several occasions. They are the governing body by which fire department standards are regulated throughout the nation.

Until next month- take care and be safe!

A Homeowner's Guide to Fire Safety and Prevention **Yes No NA Safety Measure**

1. Is your address visible from the street (day and night)?
2. Are all electrical panels kept clear of obstructions, including storage?
3. Are all breakers identified to show which circuit they protect?
4. Are all electrical outlets or switches covered by an appropriate cover plate?
5. Are all electrical appliances plugged directly into wall outlets? If extension cords are used; the extension cord should be as large or larger than the appliance cord that it is extending. Do not use multi-outlet extension cords.
6. Are gas shut off valves visible, accessible, (clear of weeds, trash, storage, etc)?
7. Is the heating/air conditioning unit clean of dust? Filters should be replaced monthly.
8. Are all combustibles (paper, rags, boxes, etc.) stored away from heat producing appliances?
9. Is there at least one ABC rated fire extinguisher in the home (the kitchen is the recommended place)?
10. Do all smoke detectors in the home work properly? Are they clean of dust? Have the batteries been changed within the last 12 months?
11. If you have a fireplace or wood burning stove; are the ashes, disposed of outside of the home and at a safe distance from combustibles? Ashes should be allowed to cool for several days prior to being placed in any combustible container.
12. Have two ways out of all rooms been identified? Has your family practiced exiting the home from both the primary and secondary exits?
13. Has your family identified a "Meeting Place" outside the home where the family can assemble in the event of an emergency in the home?
14. Has the 9-1-1 emergency phone number been posted on or near the phone ?