



WAYNESBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE PREVENTION and LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION
E-BULLETIN

September/ October 2011

Welcome to the first Waynesboro Fire Department e-bulletin. Lives and property are threatened by fire and other disasters every day. It is our hope this bi-monthly newsletter will present information on ways everyone can stay safe and be prepared in the event of an emergency. You will find sections in this bulletin about fire prevention and life safety education and about activities the fire department is presenting. Your firefighters are always ready to respond with honor, pride, and compassion.

About 3,500 Americans die each year in fires and about 20,000 are injured. You can stop the fire before it starts. Use this fact sheet to learn how to prevent a fire in your home and know what to do if you have a fire.

Don't underestimate the speed or power of fire!

FIRE dynamics countdown

Most people don't realize just how fast flames and smoke spread in a fire scenario and assume they have more time to escape than they really do. It's a mistake that could prove deadly. That's why if you hear the smoke alarm or see flames, it's essential that you get out fast!

0 = contents of a wastebasket burst into flames.

30 seconds – fire ignites a nearby couch.

1 minute, 4 seconds – polyurethane cushioning from couch melts, spreading fire to the carpet. Smoke and toxic gases start to fill the living room.

1 minute, 47 seconds – smoke starts to move to second floor.

3 minutes, 3 seconds – Temperature in the living room exceeds 500 degrees F. At this point, no one in this room could survive!

3 minutes, 41 seconds – FLASHOVER! Everything in the living room suddenly ignites. The temperature is now more than 1400 degrees F. The living room windows break out and the entire room fills with flames, forcing smoke and toxic gases throughout the house. The upstairs hallways and stairs are now impassable.

4 minutes, 33 seconds – flames climb up the side of the house, enter the upstairs windows, and spread to the second floor between the walls. The fire spreads so rapidly that firefighters may not be able to rescue anyone trapped inside.



It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!

The Waynesboro Fire Department Encourages Residents to Keep their Homes Safe During Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15, 2011

What's the best way to protect your family from fire? Be ahead of the game, of course. With more than 360,000 home fires reported in the United States in 2009, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), your best defense is a good offense. That's why Waynesboro's Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA during the October 9-15, 2011, to let our community know: "It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!" This year's campaign focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires -- cooking, heating and electrical equipment, as well as candles and smoking materials. Additionally, it urges people to protect their homes and families with life-saving technology and planning.

"In 2009, 2,565 people died in home fires. Nearly all of these deaths could have been prevented by taking a few simple precautions like having working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan, keeping things that can burn away from the stove and always turning off space heaters before going to bed," says Tim Melton, Lieutenant of the Waynesboro Fire Department. "Fire is a dangerous opponent, but by anticipating the hazards, you are much less likely to be one of the nearly 13,000 people injured in home fires each year."

The Waynesboro Fire Department offers the following tips for protecting your home and family from fire:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

“While preventing home fires in Waynesboro is always our number one priority, it is not always possible,” Melton continued. “Waynesboro’s residents need to provide the best protection to keep their homes and families safe in the event of a fire. This can be achieved by developing an escape plan which you practice regularly and equipping homes with life-saving technologies like smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers.”

The following tips will help keep your family safe if there is a fire in your home:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home (including the basement).
- Interconnect all smoke alarms in the home so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond when tested.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to respond if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible ways out. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- If you are building or remodeling your home, consider installing home fire sprinklers.

The Waynesboro Fire Department will be hosting tours, presentations, and Open House during Fire Prevention Week to promote “It’s Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!” Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the power of prevention and available technologies to protect their own families from fire.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Waynesboro, please contact the Waynesboro Fire Department at 540-942-6730. To learn more about “It’s Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!” visit NFPA’s Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org

The Waynesboro Fire Department will host an open house on October 09, 2011 from 1-4 pm at the fire station, 300 W. Broad St. There will be games, prizes, literature, public safety displays, refreshments and music. A day filled with Fun opportunities for all ages to learn fire and life safety education.
