October is All About Fire Prevention

October 2018

A candle on a nightstand next to the window. An overloaded extension cord. A pan of grease on the stove. An unattended grill. Children with matches playing under a bed. All of these have the potential to start a fire in our home, a place we want to think is safe and secure. We know that fires burn faster and the smoke is more toxic, thanks to all the synthetic materials in our homes. When a fire starts, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds.

When that fire happens, damage occurs. How much depends on how quickly someone recognizes the problem and does something to put it out. Almost without exception, the fire will result in damage and hours to months of cleanup and repair. The smell has a way of getting into everything and hanging around long after the damage is repaired. Burn injuries are very painful and serious burns take years of recovery.

What can you do? The theme of the 2018 Fire Prevention Week is **Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.**

* **Look** for places fire could start.
* **Listen** for the sound of the smoke alarm.
* **Learn** 2 ways out of every room.

Keep flames and heat sources away from flammable materials. Make sure you have working smoke alarms. Have an escape plan and practice it. All of these simple things can make a potentially life-saving difference.

Want to know more? Visit www.firepreventionweek.org

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