

**100,000**

Number of fires started by children every year causing damage and injury

**4,400**

Number of Americans killed by fires annually

**25,100**

Number of Americans injured by fires every year

**80%**

Percentage of all fire deaths that occur in residences

**About 2 Million**

Fires reported each year in the U.S.

**\$10.6 Billion**

Direct property loss due to fires each year

**Cooking**

The leading cause of home fires and fire injuries in the U.S.

**Heating**

The second leading cause of home fires and fire injuries in the U.S.

**Arson**

The third leading cause of home fires and fire injuries in the U.S.

**Careless Smoking**

The leading cause of all fire deaths in the U.S.

**Over 40%**

Percentage of residential fires and residential fatalities estimated to occur in homes with no smoke alarms.

*From the US Fire Association  
www.usfa.fema.gov*

# Safety Sounds

A Monthly Safety Bulletin From SPSG Safety Group

## Fire Prevention

Each year about 300 people are killed and \$280 million in property is destroyed in fires attributed to children playing with fire. Deaths related to children playing with fire are particularly avoidable.

A working smoke alarm dramatically increases a person's chance of surviving a fire. Approximately 88 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm. However, these alarms are not always properly maintained and as a result might not work in an emergency.

## Tips for Children

- Keep matches, lighters and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of reach.
- Have children tell you when they find matches and lighters.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters, but to get out quickly and call for help from another location
- Show children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out.
- Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if clothes catch fire.

## History of Fire Prevention Week

The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 9, 1871. This tragic conflagration killed some 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures. The origin of the fire has generated speculation since its occurrence, with the fact and fiction becoming blurred over the years. One popular legend has it that Mrs O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting the O'Leary barn on fire and starting the spectacular blaze. However the massive fire began, it swiftly took its toll, burning more than 2000 acres in 27 hours. The city of Chicago quickly rebuilt, however, and within a couple of years residents began celebrating their successful restoration to memorialize the anniversary of the fire with festivities.

Intending to observe the fire's anniversary

*October 7th – 13th*

## National Fire Prevention Week

### Practice Your Escape Plan:

"Practice Your Escape Plan!" is the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2007. It's not enough to have a home fire escape plan. To escape safely, you've got to make sure that everyone in the home has practiced the plan.

with a more serious

commemoration,



the Fire Marshals Association of North America (FMANA), the oldest membership section of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), decided that the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention.

When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week, October 4 - 10 1925, he noted that in the previous year some 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States. Calling the loss "startling", President Coolidge's proclamation stated, "This waste results from the conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror; for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented... It is highly desirable that every effort be made to reform the conditions which have made possible so vast a destruction of the national wealth".

*From USFA  
www.usfa.fema.gov  
firesafety.buffnet.net  
www.nfpa.org*