

JIF NEWS

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Somerset County Joint Insurance Fund featuring Safety, Health & Wellness



DURING AN EMERGENCY

REACT IMMEDIATELY. If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

GET OUT, STAY OUT! Once you have escaped, stay out. Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. Let trained firefighters conduct rescue operations.

FACT

A fire at The Station nightclub in W. Warwick, RI, on February 20, 2003, claimed 100 lives and is the fourth-deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history. Since that fire, NFPA has enacted tough new code provisions for fire sprinklers and crowd management in nightclub-type venues. Those provisions mark sweeping changes to the codes and standards governing safety in assembly occupancies.

Safety in Places of Public Assembly

Every day, millions of people wake up, go to work or school, and take part in social events. But every so often the unexpected happens: an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism or some other disaster. Routines change drastically, and people are suddenly aware of how fragile their lives and routines can be. Each disaster can have lasting effects — people may be seriously injured or killed, and devastating and costly property damage can occur. People entering any public assembly building need to be prepared in case of an emergency.

BEFORE YOU ENTER

Take a good look. Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable? Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit. Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?

Have a communication plan. Identify a relative or friend to contact in case of emergency and if you are separated from family or friends.

Plan a meeting place. Pick a meeting place outside to meet family or friends with whom you are attending the function. If there is an emergency, be sure to meet them there.

WHEN YOU ENTER

Take a good look. Locate exits immediately. When you enter a building you should look for all available exits. Some exits may be in front and some in back of you. Be prepared to use your closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit.

Check for clear exit paths. Make sure aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths are blocked, report the violation to management and leave the building if it is not immediately addressed. Call the local fire marshal to register a complaint.

Do you feel safe? Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe in the building, leave immediately.

SOURCE: NFPA PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION



Halloween Fire Safety Tips

HALLOWEEN IS A FUN, AND SPOOKY, TIME OF YEAR FOR KIDS. MAKE TRICK-OR-TREATING SAFE FOR YOUR LITTLE MONSTERS WITH A FEW EASY SAFETY TIPS.

- 1 When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
- 2 Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- 3 Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, and heaters.
- 4 It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candle in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- 5 Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- 6 Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting. If your children are going to Halloween parties at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

DID YOU KNOW... decorations are the first thing to ignite in **900** reported home fires each year. Two of every five of these fires were started by a candle.

THINK
PINK

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

When breast cancer is detected early, in the localized stage, the 5-year survival rate is 98%*.

*National Cancer Institute

Start now by creating a free Early Detection Plan Here:
<http://www.earlydetectionplan.org/>

2014 Fire Prevention Week



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Test Yours Every Month!
Fire Prevention Week - October 5-11, 2014

The 2014 Fire Prevention Week's theme is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives; Test Yours Every Month!" Learn all about smoke alarm safety with this quiz and be sure to share your results!

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/fire-prevention-week/fire-prevention-week-quiz>

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