

Fire Safety Tips
From
The Orange Beach Fire & Rescue



The Orange Beach Fire & Rescue offers a high level of protection for lives and property; such as High Angle Rescue, Water Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Hazardous Material Operations and Fire Prevention. We would like to take this time to give you several fire safety tips. The Fire Prevention Bureau asks that you read each of the following and look around your residence to see if you have any of these problems; please be sure to check the item off once you have corrected it. The Orange Beach Fire Prevention Bureau would also like to extend a helping hand and offer a home inspection. You may schedule an appointment for your residence by calling the following number, 251-981-6386. Please be sure and leave your name and number if you leave a message.

First let's start in your yard;

_____ The driveway will need to be accessible for emergency vehicles, this means no branches lower than 13 feet 6 inches and your driveway brush and landscaping needs to be at least 11 feet wide. This will ensure the fastest response possible to your residence in case of an emergency.

_____ Your residence will need to be numbered along with your mailbox so in the event of an emergency the Fire Department along with the Police Department can find you. These numbers need to be at least 3 inches high and visible from the entrance side of your driveway. The numbers on the house need to be at least 3 inches high as well and placed in a well lit area for night time viewing.

_____ Look around your residence and see if there is heavy vegetation close to it, you want the vegetation to be no closer than 30 feet from your residence. This will help if a woods/brush fire gets out of control from a neighboring property.

The City of Orange Beach has a burn ordinance which states. No open burning for lot clearing or debris shall be performed without a permit; this permit states you must have an air curtain and a 24-hour attendant must be present while in operation and an inspection shall be performed on your air curtain and burn site after the \$ 200.00 permit fee is paid. No yard trash such as brush, leaves, straw, etc. may be burned we ask that you call public works for a pick-up on the side of your road.

_____ Next look around and see if you have any extension cords supplying permanent power to outside fixtures; such as fountains, lights, wells, etc. These will need to be removed and a permanent hard wired cable in conduit will need to be supplied along with a GFI circuit. This will reduce shorts and arcing and protect your children along with neighborhood kids.

_____ If you have a fire place with a chimney look at your chimney vent to ensure the ember screen is in place to provide protection from accidental fires and to keep small animals out of your fire place. Also be sure and have your chimney cleaned after a year's usage to prevent soot build-up and a large fire from kindling in your fire place chimney causing excessive heat to surrounding combustibles.

Now let's move into your residence and begin the living area inspection.

_____ Lets get a step ladder and not a chair (that is how a lot of accidents happen) and check your smoke detectors, push the test button and hold it; the alarm will sound and certain models lights will activate. Be sure and change your batteries in the smoke detectors at day light savings time. So when you spring forward or fall back you change your batteries. If you do not have smoke detectors we urge you to make it a priority to buy them as well as carbon monoxide detectors.

_____ Look for extension cords running permanent power to appliances such as freezers, ice machines, lights and decorations. You need to replace this with a hard wired receptacle to ensure overheating of the extension cord does not occur.

_____ If you have a fire extinguisher make sure it is at least a 5 Lb. ABC extinguisher and the type of extinguisher that can be checked by an extinguisher company instead replacing it every 2 years. If you do not have an extinguisher we urge you to buy one as soon as possible. If you do a lot of deep frying you might want to check into buying a Potassium "K" extinguisher which blankets the grease and smothers it out allowing the grease to cool down. You will need an extinguisher within 75 feet of travel distance or one on every floor of your residence.

_____ Check your windows and doors make sure they are not painted shut or nailed down. The house is designed with windows and doors for rescue or egress, keep in mind the view always comes second to your life.

_____ After hurricanes please remove your boards for this will hinder you from escaping a house fire; as well as the fire department from making entry if a rescue is needed.

_____ During the winter months please ensure that combustibles such as blankets and clothing is not near your space heaters, fire places or at anytime around open flames. Heat may transfer causing the combustibles to reach their temperature of ignition.

_____ Be sure to blow out all candles when leaving your residence and also un-plug those plug in air fresheners when you are going to be away for any extended time.

_____ Storage of hazardous materials should be performed carefully, ensure multiple chemicals do not react with each other causing fire; the best thing to do is keep them separated adequately or discard after use.

_____ If you have a home elevator you will need to have it checked by the State of Alabama Elevator Inspector annually. The cost of this is approximately \$175.00 per elevator. The City of Orange Beach requires all elevators to be equipped with elevator phones which ring directly to the Fire Department Dispatch in case of entrapment or elevator malfunction.

_____ If your residence is supplied with an Automatic Sprinkler System make sure it gets checked annually. Also remind occupants that the sprinkler heads are not for hanging clothes on them.

_____ If you have a fire alarm system wired to your smoke detectors make sure you perform a test with your alarm company annually. First call your alarm company and tell them you would like to perform a test and have them call you when they receive the call from your alarm box.

_____ Do you have an escape plan from your residence if so have you shared it with your family, explained it and practiced it with your children. This is a great need with kids to practice so they can be confident of themselves on what to do and where to go in case of emergency.

_____ Make sure you have a central meeting space such as a mailbox or a tree so everyone will meet in the same place and everyone can be accounted for in case of an emergency.

_____ Attend a CPR or First Aid class everyone needs to know the basics; for it could be your life they are saving.

This will complete your home inspection; we hope we have helped you make your residence a safer place to live. If you have any questions regarding these tips please do not hesitate in contacting this office, 251-981-6386. And please check out our web site at www.obfd.org for updates from the Orange Beach Fire & Rescue.

For the City of Orange Beach

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