

October 2020



PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Fire and Life Safety Newsletter

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Beginning June 2020 the Pioneer Fire Protection District will be releasing a monthly newsletter to be distributed to the public to help educate on specific safety topics related to the month ahead.

The goal of this newsletter is to educate the public on accurate and up to date fire and life education topics in an all in one format.

**CONTACT OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE AT
(530) 620-4444**

Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing order in place, our office and stations will remain closed to the public until further notice unless you are experiencing an emergency.

OCTOBER 4-10 IS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK!



Did you know?

Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.

Cooking Safety Tips

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment.
 - The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
 - Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
 - Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it's cool.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
 - Loose clothing can hang down onto stove burners and catch fire. Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
 - Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.



To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and Cooking Safety, visit the NFPA's website at <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week>

SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

Make sure that you have smoke alarms inside of every sleeping area, outside of every sleeping area, and on every level of your home!

Smoke Alarm Tips

- Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Replace your alarms after 10 years.

Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

10
years

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA



Smoke Alarm

One on every level and in every bedroom



Carbon Monoxide Alarm

One on every level and in every bedroom



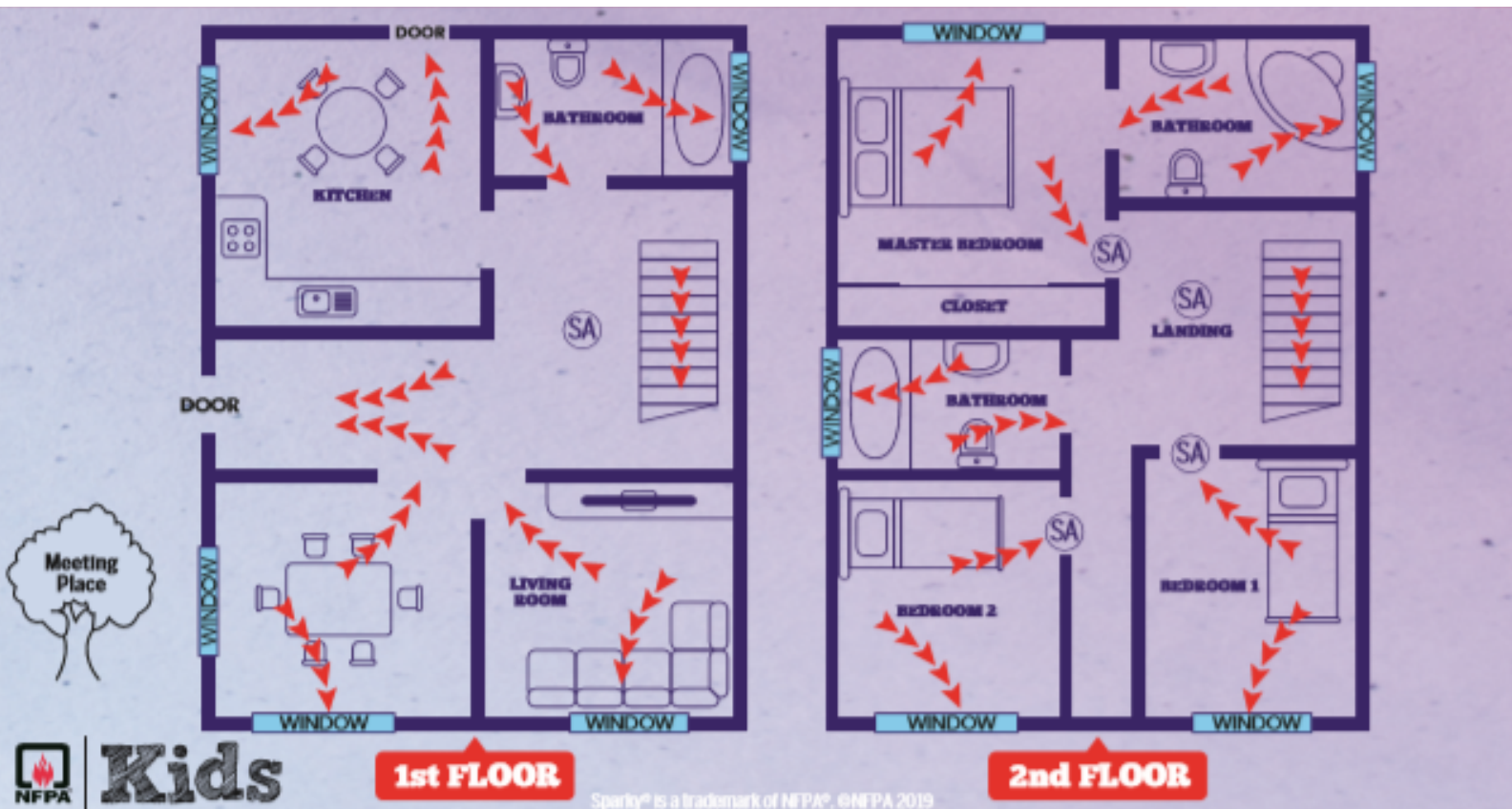
Fire Extinguisher

One on every level, plus kitchen and garage

To learn more about smoke alarms, visit First Alert's website at <https://www.firstalert.com/do-you-know-where-to-place-your-fire-safety-devices/>

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING AND PRACTICE

Have a plan in place for escaping your home in an emergency and practice as often as possible both during the day time and night time.



Home fire escape planning should include the following:

- Drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows
 - Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out
 - Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting
 - Having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms
 - Pushing the smoke alarm button to start the drill
 - Practicing what to do in case there is smoke: Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practicing using different ways out and closing doors behind you as you leave
 - Never going back for people, pets, or things
 - Going to your outdoor meeting place
- Calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone

To learn more about home escape plans visit NFPA's website at

<https://bit.ly/3jdvr7h>

HEATING SAFETY TIPS

Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months. Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.

Heating Safety

- Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires.
- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from heating equipment.
 - Have a 3-foot (1-metre) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
 - Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Have a qualified professional install heating equipment.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.



Have chimneys and vents cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | Fire Department's Right

To learn more about heating safety visit the following websites:

https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Heating_Safety.ashx
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/heating_fire_safety_vertical.pdf

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween will look a lot different this year compared to last year. According to Halloween.org, El Dorado County is in the yellow zone for the nation wide COVID-19 risk level and that means you can celebrate by doing the following:



TRICK OR TREAT!

Time to get the treats, but before you do... it's super important to strictly adhere to the official trick or treat guidelines! Focus on safety first and make sure you're only visiting the neighbors that have safety measures in place!



FAMILY PET PARADE

Talk about a new tradition! Take to the streets with your furry friends and take part in a social distancing pet parade! Dog treats go to the best costume!



NEIGHBORHOOD PARADE

Organize a neighborhood costume parade where the route is predetermined and marked to maintain safe distances between participants. Stay safe by incorporating sanitization stations, yellow caution tape, 6ft sidewalk stickers/tape, age group signs and more!

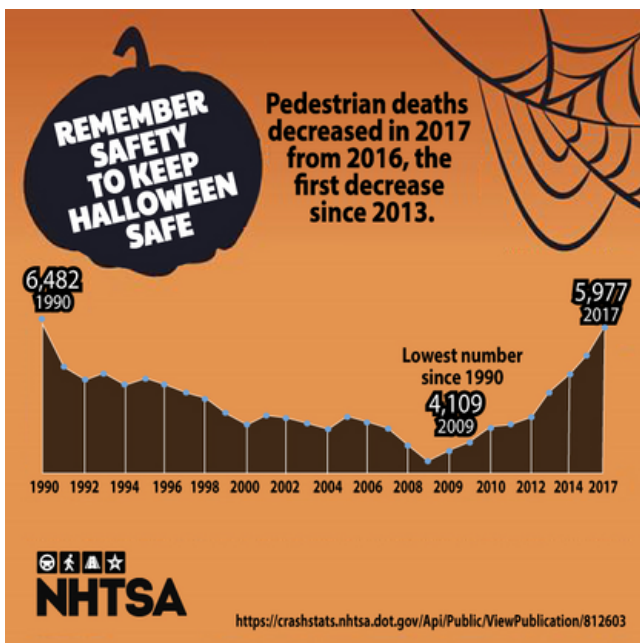


FAIRYTALE FOREST

Plan a path through neighboring woods or a park and light it up with glow sticks, flashlights and more! Line the trail with Halloween décor, props, candy and surprises. Trees can be tied with ribbons to help follow social distance guidelines!

Halloween Safety Tips

- Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in jack-o-lanterns
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric
- Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms are working.



[To learn more about Halloween safety tips during COVID visit the following websites:](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>

<https://www.halloween2020.org/>

<https://nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Halloween>

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/halloween-safety-tips>

FIRE OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER

According to the Northern California Geographic Coordination Center we are seeing the following as a fire season prediction for October 2020.

Fire Potential at Lower Elevations (< 3000 ft)

- Robust cured fine fuel crop very flammable and vulnerable to fire spread
 - Live fuels have dried to critical values
- Above Normal Significant Fire Potential due to dry N-NE/Offshore wind events, which will increase in frequency and intensity from mid September on
- In the absence of season ending rains in October, Above Normal conditions will carry into November

Fire Potential at Middle and Upper Elevations (3000 ft and higher)

- Fuels, both live and dead and in all sized classes, are at critical dryness levels
- Lightning events becoming less frequent, but any lightning will pose a threat of new large fires until season ending precipitation arrives
 - N-NE/Offshore wind events will become the main threat of large fire development beginning in mid September, and become more frequent and intense in October
- Above Normal Significant Fire Potential through October at 3000-6000 ft elevation and through September above 6000 ft due to very dry fuels



To learn more about fire season outlooks visit the following websites:

https://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/weather/NOps_Summary.pdf

https://www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov/outlooks/month2_outlook.png

WILDFIRE SMOKE AND YOUR HEALTH



What is Wildfire Smoke and can it make me sick?

Wildfire smoke is a mix of gases and fine particles from burning vegetation, building materials, and other materials. Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick. Even someone who is healthy can get sick if there is enough smoke in the air. Breathing in smoke can have immediate health effects, including:

- Coughing
- Trouble breathing normally
- Stinging eyes
- A scratchy throat
- Runny nose
- irritated sinuses
- Wheezing and shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Headaches
- An asthma attack
- Tiredness
- Fast heartbeat



Older adults, pregnant women, children, and people with preexisting respiratory and heart conditions may be more likely to get sick if they breathe in wildfire smoke.

To learn more visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/smoke.html>

HOME ADDRESS SIGNS

Address Numbers

Having properly displayed house numbers on a home can help firefighters find your home quickly in the event of a home fire or medical emergency. All new and existing buildings shall place and maintain approved numbers or address identification on the buildings so as to be plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property.



- The address of a residence shall be posted and visible from the access roadway fronting the property.
- Whenever the numbers on the building will not be clearly visible from the access roadway, the numbers shall be placed at the access roadway and the driveway.
- Address numbers shall be clearly visible from both directions of travel on the roadway fronting the property.
- Said numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches in height, with .5-inch stroke, reflectorized and contrast with their background (district preferred green/white), numbers shall be visible from at least 100 feet.

To learn more visit:

http://pioneerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Addressing_of_Buildings_B001_032409.pdf

DRIVEWAYS AND ACCESS ROADS

Driveways for access to one- and two-family dwellings shall conform to the following criteria as applicable:

- Driveways serving one parcel with no more than five structures shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet in width. The Fire Chief may require up to twenty (20) foot wide driveway when more than five structures exist.
- Roadways serving more than one parcel, but less than fire parcels, shall be a minimum twenty (20) feet in width. Roadways serving five parcels or more shall be no less than 24 feet in width.
- Vertical clearance shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet.
- When the driveway exceeds 150 feet in length, provide a turnout at the midpoint. For driveways not exceeding 400 feet in length, the turnout may be omitted if full sight distance is maintained. If the driveway exceeds 800 feet in length, a turnaround shall be provided not greater than 50 feet from the structure.
- When a driveway exceeds 300 feet in length, a turnaround shall be provided no greater than 50 feet from structure.
- The driveway must be provided with an all-weather surface capable of supporting a 75,000 lb. vehicle loading. When the road grade exceeds ten (10) percent, the road shall be surfaced with asphalt or concrete.



To learn more visit:

http://pioneerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Emergency_Access_Ways_B003_050509.pdf

WILDFIRE READINESS

Determine how prepared your home is for wildfire Learn what steps you can take to better prepare your home for wildfire

By examining three key components of wildfire readiness:

CREATE YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE



Create and maintain 100 feet of Defensible Space around your home.

FIRE RESISTANT LANDSCAPING



Surround your home with fire resistant landscaping.

HOME HARDENING



Use fire-resistant building materials to protect your home from wildfires.

Are You Ready?

Being Ready for Wildfire starts with maintaining an adequate defensible space, using fire-resistant landscaping, and by hardening your home by using fire-resistant building materials



QRT's decided to get together and clean up brush and debris at Station 37.
Thank you Michelle, Julie, Patrick, Robert and Paul!

To learn more visit:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace/>

PFPD UPDATES AND INFORMATION



The district is in need of your help!

The Pioneer Fire Protection District needs help! We need your help to improve our capabilities to meet fire insurance standards and industry expectations (homeowners fire insurance) helping us improve our ability to respond to our increasing fire threat.

All needs are listed at the link below:

<http://pioneerfire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20-22-Donation-assistance-request-from-the-community.draft-2-ocx.pdf>

If you any questions or wish to help fund/donate any of the listed; apparatus, equipment or facility needs. Please contact the district office.

Phone: 530 620-4444 Email: admin@pioneerfire.org

MOU Between PFPD Board of Directors and the Union

A new Memorandum of Understanding in effect as of 9/11/2020 for more information visit our website at <http://pioneerfire.org/minutes-agendas/> and review the September 8, 2020 meeting minutes.



[To learn more about what is happening in our district, visit our website at http://pioneerfire.org/](http://pioneerfire.org/)