



## Eye on Safety | Fire Prevention

National Fire Prevention Week is October 9 – 15. Are you, your family and your co-workers ready? Fire won't wait, plan your escape now.

The importance of fire prevention for your family and/or staff is more than just preventing property damage. When you create an emergency action plan, you're potentially saving lives! Create a plan for your household and make sure you have and understand a plan in our facilities. Fire prevention planning should include several focal points, ultimately for the safety and wellbeing of your staff and/or family. Remember, fire safety training has as much to do with preventing a fire as it does with responding to a fire.

The occupants of our building should be aware of the procedures they need to follow in case of a fire. Emergency action plans should include a map of the building that clearly marks emergency escape routes and emergency exits. In addition, make a note of where fire extinguishers and fire alarms are located in the building. Establish a plan that explains how and when to respond to a fire.

Fire safety plans should include guidelines as well, which should highlight the importance of fire prevention. For instance, if evacuation is the only option, occupants should make sure they close doors behind them as they leave in order to slow down the growing flames. If able, have some of your staff complete fire safety training. Those who can both educate others and enforce fire safety and prevention methods make for a responsible and *safe* plan.

Recognizing the fire hazards for your particular building is the first step in truly understanding the importance of fire prevention. This is especially true when you create your emergency action plan. Identify potential fire hazards with your occupants.

If something happens and you try to prevent a blazing fire on your own and your extinguisher doesn't work, you're in trouble. That's why proper maintenance, testing, and inspections should occur regularly for your fire protection equipment and the building. This means you have the right number of fire extinguishers, fire alarms, smoke alarms, and working fire sprinkler systems. But if you don't allow for routine fire inspections, you're missing out on the importance of fire prevention. Not to mention you're putting yourself, your building, and its occupants in danger.

From the words of our dear Smoky the Bear... only **you** can prevent fires. Understanding the importance of fire prevention saves lives. In order to ensure the safety and integrity of your building and those occupying the building, it's critical that you follow all safety procedures.