

Fire safety is something that we all need and want, but having a busy and full life can tend to relegate matters to the back of our minds. National Fire Prevention Week is October 4 – 10 this year. Taking a few minutes to look around your home objectively can help identify areas that need improvement.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, on each level of the home, and in the kitchen
- Test smoke alarms monthly, change batteries every 6 months, and replace the unit every 10 years
- Check every room to ensure that the escape route did not get blocked unintentionally; either by stored items, furniture or clutter
- Use emergency release devices inside all barred doors and windows
- Never paint or nail windows shut
- Keep trash and debris from collecting on your property
- Post 4" high address numbers onto the front of your home (with a contrasting color)
- Replace cracked or damaged electrical cords
- Use tamper-resistant receptacles when you have children in the home
- Ask smokers to smoke outside, and provide them deep and sturdy ashtrays
- Have your chimney swept and inspected each Fall
- Use fireplace screens to keep sparks contained
- Check the firebox within your fireplace for damage or cracks
- Make sure that your portable space heater has an auto shut-off, so that if it tipped over it will turn off
- Clean the lint tray in your clothes dryer after each load
- Purchase two home fire extinguishers and keep them handy
- Don't leave food cooking on the stovetop unattended
- Have a 3 foot "Kid Free Zone" around the stove
- Install "anti-scald" devices on tub faucets and shower heads
- Keep matches and lighters only within adult reach
- Plan a family escape route, select a meeting place outside and practice with a quick drill twice a year

Fire safety is one thing that can take a little bit of conscious awareness and turn it into averting a heart wrenching disaster. Talk to your kiddos, explain these tips to them and help them grow up with a key lifesaving skill. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 281-983-2950.