

MSU-ES Dawg Tracks



September, 2009 *Reaction Tips in Case of a Fire*



According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), in 2006 someone in the United States died in a fire every 162 minutes; four out of five fire deaths occurred in the home in 2007; in 2006, fire departments responded to 412,500 home fires which claimed the lives of 2,580 people, excluding firefighters and injured another 12,925; and most victims die from toxic gases and smoke and not from burns.

The leading cause of fire-related deaths is smoking. Cooking is the primary cause of residential fires. In 2005, residential fires accounted for nearly \$7 billion dollars in property damage. Fire and burn injuries to humans account for nearly \$7.5 billion dollars each year. One last interesting fire fact - approximately one-half of home fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms.

Most fires start out small, but after a few minutes they can be out of control. It is important to act fast to sound the alarm, and it is just as important to know what to do and to do it fast.

Following are some tips that deal with what we should do in case of a fire.

THINK FAST AND ACT WITH CAUTION – When you first discover a fire, determine what to do. Can I put it out with a fire extinguisher or is it already too far along to handle?

- **SOUND THE ALARM** – Do not underestimate any fire! If the fire is too much for you to handle, don't hesitate, report it immediately.
- **WARN THE PEOPLE** – Warn all the people in the area so that they can get to places of safety. This is really important in the case of building fires.

- **STAND BY** – Stay near the fire, but remain a safe distance. Meet the fire department personnel and instruct them to the location of the fire. This can mean valuable time in getting there to combat it.
- **FIRE FIGHTING** – Preventing fires is everyone's responsibility. But, we all aren't obligated to fight major fires. We should never join in or assist in fire fighting unless the firemen request our help.
- **HAVING THE CORRECT FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** – Obviously, there are different types of extinguishers for various types of fires:
 - ~ Class A – Use foam or water for wood, textiles, or rubbish.
 - ~ Class B – Use foam, dry chemical, carbon dioxide or vaporizing liquid for grease, motor vehicle, flammable liquids.
 - ~ Class C – Use on energized equipment, including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.
 - ~ Class D – Use on flammable solids like magnesium.
 - ~ Class K – Use for kitchen fires. This is a relatively new class of extinguisher, but the codes require them in kitchens now.

Fires of any sort are horrible to think about, and I hope no one has to experience a home lost in a fire or an injury to a love one due to a fire. However, if you are confronted with a fire of any sort, I believe that if you keep this paper handy for an occasional reminder or heads up, it can be helpful in helping to know what actions to take for help or assistance.

**OLD FIREFIGHTERS NEVER DIE-
THEY JUST STOP ARSON AROUND!**
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**PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY-
WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!!**