



# MSU-ES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips to Make  
your Home Safer



Safety doesn't require a lot of time, but it does require some thought and planning. A little planning and thought can help to avoid a mistake that could mean a lifetime of regret.

Following are some tips that can help to avoid some of those regretful moments:

- ✓ Test the **smoke alarms** in your home; replace the batteries as needed. If you don't have them, arrange to buy and install them in the sleeping areas and on each floor level.
- ✓ Set up an **emergency response package** for your home, complete with basic food and required medicines, a fire or emergency escape plan and post it on the refrigerator and other high profile locations. On the escape plan, show two exits from each room, if possible. Practice with the family several times each year to keep them familiar with the routes and also teach the family how to **Stop, Drop & Roll** in case of a fire or other emergency.
- ✓ Schedule an **appointment to have your furnace cleaned and inspected.**
- ✓ Turn off **space heaters** before going to bed.
- ✓ Put **non-slip strips** in your tubs and showers.
- ✓ Install **night lights** in hallways.
- ✓ Put a **flashlight** in each bedroom. Use flashlights and not live candles in a power outage.
- ✓ **Wipe up spills** as soon as they occur to prevent slips and falls.
- ✓ Use a **sturdy Christmas tree stand** and keep breakable decorations out of reach of young kids.
- ✓ Keep **Christmas trees** at least 3 feet away from heat sources and water them daily.
- ✓ **Inspect Christmas lights** for damage.
- ✓ **Store cleaners and other poisons** away from food.
- ✓ **Post the Poison Control hotline** number next to all phones in the home or business. Also prepare a card with all pertinent emergency numbers on it and post it adjacent to all phones.
- ✓ If young children are in the home, **keep locks on the cabinets** where poisons such as cleaners, gasoline, anti-freeze, detergents, etc. are stored.
- ✓ Purchase and **install carbon dioxide** detectors in your home. Test them periodically.
- ✓ **Keep medicine** in their original containers.
- ✓ **Use safety covers on unused outlets.** Check outlets for overloaded plug-ins and refrain from using splitters. They are dangerous and are against Mississippi code regulations.
- ✓ If you have **open fireplaces in the home**, place fire screens in front of them.
- ✓ **Use ladders** for climbing and not chairs or tools.
- ✓ In multi-story homes, keep stairways clear.
- ✓ **Never leave food** cooking unattended.
- ✓ **Teach your kids** to tell you when they find matches or lighters.

- ✓ **Turn out the lights** when you leave a room.
- ✓ **Unplug all appliances** when they are not in use, especially in the kitchen.
- ✓ **Check all appliances** to see that they are laboratory approved. UL or other certified laboratories.
- ✓ **Keep medicine cabinets** locked or at least totally secure to protect young kids.
- ✓ **Replace old style light bulbs** with the new energy efficient ones. Also, with fluorescent bulbs, replace present style with green tips, which are energy efficient and eco-friendly. (Can be disposed of in any dumpsters.)
- ✓ **Place fire extinguishers** in key areas of the home.
- ✓ In multi-story homes, keep a ladder upstairs for use in case of an exit being locked.
- ✓ Check to see that all your major appliances are **grounded and GFCIs are installed where needed or required.**
- ✓ **Check and clean** the lint trap and hose on the clothes dryer.

## CHILD PROTECTION IN THE HOME-

- **Put down hot drinks** when carrying a baby.
- **Put hot food and liquids** near the center of the table.
- **Teach children** to stay away from the stove/oven.
- **Pick up small items** like coins or tokens and small toys that all can be a choking hazard. **Use a toilet paper core** and if the toy fits inside the core, it's too small.
- **Move baby cribs** away from windows and chairs or sofas away as well. It is possible for a child to fall out of the chair or sofa and out a window.
- **Tie window cords up high** enough to be out of the reach of young kids.
- **Remove or keep plastic bags** out of areas where young kids might be.
- **Keep the toilet lid shut** to keep "little hands" out of the water or possible falling in or the lid falling on their "noggin." A toilet lock will be useful
- **Use safety straps on high chairs** and changing tables.
- Remove soft bedding, soft pillows and stuffed animals from the baby's bed.
- **Remove drawstrings** from the baby's clothing.
- **Install door knob covers** on bathroom doors.
- For multi-floor homes – **install baby gates** at the bottom and top of the stairway.

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Excerpts: [www.safetyathome.com](http://www.safetyathome.com) 12/7/2011