



The Dispatch

Fire Safety

Why is it October is Fire Safety Month and yet most home fires occur in December? Why do we assign only one month per year to fire safety? You should be doing the following every day.

- ⇒ Keep flammable objects away from heating devices, stoves and candles.
- ⇒ Avoid plugging in several appliances into the same electrical socket.
- ⇒ Clean out your dryer lint trap every time you turn the dryer on!
- ⇒ Know what kind of smoke detection you have. If you have a battery operated smoke alarm you need to test it. If your smoke detector or heat detector was installed by Monitor Controls, Inc., we test the system when we do annual inspections, so make sure you schedule an inspection!
- ⇒ Check that your emergency lights are working and flashlights are operational so you can see a way to the exit if the area is filled with smoke.
- ⇒ Stress fire safety to young children. Good habits last a lifetime!
- ⇒ Prepare for it! (see page 2)

Hotel/Motel Fire Facts

- In an average year, one of every 12 hotels or motels reported a structure fire.
- Smoking materials started 10% of the fires in hotels and motels; these fires caused 79% of the deaths.
- Only 8% of hotel and motel fires were intentionally set, but these accounted for 12% of the associated property damage.
- Twelve percent of fires in hotels and motels began in a bedroom; these fires caused 72% of the associated civilian deaths and 31% of civilian injuries.
- When sprinklers were present and operated, 91% of sprinklers in hotel or motel fires operated effectively when present.

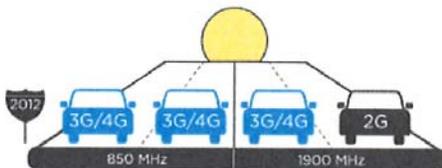
Courtesy of NFPA

Sunset Date Set for 2G

After December 31, 2016 anything using 2G will cease working overnight. Only 3G and 4G will work from that day forward. This will affect alarm transmission signals utilizing cellular alarm communicators.

Monitor Controls, Inc. is formulating a strategic plan to upgrade any clientele who will be affected by this beginning in 2013.

During the Sunset:



Starting in 2011, in an effort to increase service levels to their consumer cell phone customers, cellular carriers will start to make their preferred frequencies 3G/4G only. The process is called *spectrum harvesting*. Similar to how semis must stay in the highway's far right lanes because of their slower speeds, 2G devices will not be allowed on the best frequencies.

For 2G devices this will be a noticeable shift. If they were installed based on the coverage provided by the preferred frequencies, their signal levels will drop as they are forced onto the inferior, shallow penetrating frequencies still supporting 2G. This restriction will not occur all at once. It will appear sporadically across the country and when it does, only 3G/4G devices will be oblivious to the change.

After the Sunset:



Finally, after December 31, 2016, when the 2G Sunset is complete, it will be just like the Analog Sunset. Anything using 2G will stop working overnight. Only 3G/4G will work from that day forward.

~Courtesy of Telguard 2012~

Don't let your dreams go up in smoke - practice fire safety. ~Author Unknown

Escape Planning

Plan ahead! That sums it up!

These safety tips are only a few of those offered by the NFPA, National Fire Protection Association. The tips below pertain to home fire safety tips. However, the NFPA offers safety tips for colleges/campuses, manufactured homes, high-rise and apartment buildings, hotels and motels among others. Feel free to visit their web site directly at www.nfpa.org/education. These tips can be downloaded, printed or e-mailed to your family members, students, co-workers or safety committee chairperson.

SAFETY TIPS

- »»» MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- »»» KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- »»» HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- »»» PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- »»» PRACTICE using different ways out.
- »»» TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- »»» CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- »»» If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- »»» If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- »»» CALL the fire department from outside your home.



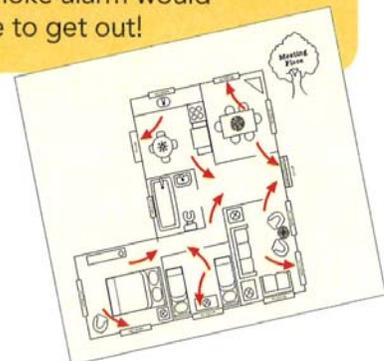
Your Source for SAFETY Information www.nfpa.org/education
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Monitor Controls, Inc. thanks all of our brave fire men and women and all first responders. While we get the first call, you are the first to respond! You look not at the danger that presents itself, but rather the challenge often putting your life at risk. We appreciate all you do for us and our clientele!

Did you know? Monitor Controls, Inc. offers all new clients who are firefighters and police officers a discount on their alarm monitoring. Feel free to pass the word!

FACTS

- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **45%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Man is the only creature that dares to light a fire and live with it. The reason? Because he alone has learned to put it out.

~Henry Jackson
Vandyke, Jr.

Editorial

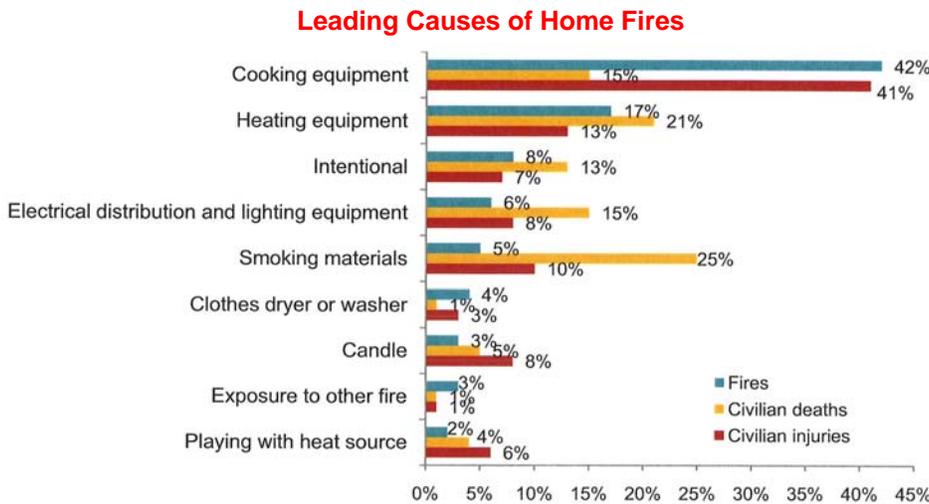
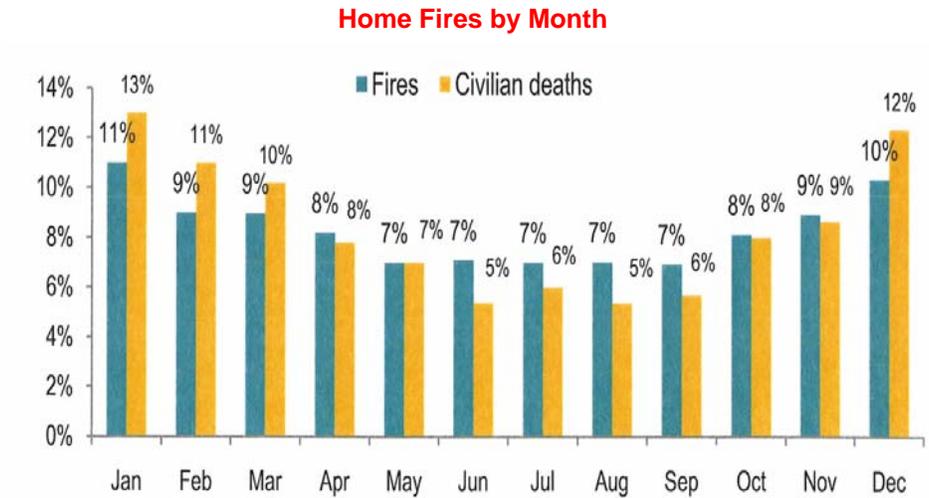
Did you have round red stickers on your bedroom window when you were a child? Do you remember the fire truck visiting your school and getting a red plastic fire hat? Do you remember having escape plans with your mom and dad?

I may be dating myself here but I remember all of these things. Yet in speaking with fellow parents recently I discovered that none of them...NONE...had performed a fire drill with their kids. They all discussed "the meeting place", but none of them actually practiced getting out.

Perhaps it's the business I'm in and I'm influenced by the daily horror stories our company hears within the industry, but I have had fire drills with my family announcing that a fire is blocking a certain staircase, or hallway. I actually found this important because I wasn't sure my young son could open the Bilco door in the basement if he couldn't exit up the staircase to the kitchen. Gladly I was proven wrong. He had the strength to push the heavy door open and had even hidden a flashlight at the bottom so he could see in the dark!

The facts are disturbing. Yet they must be shared if only for the sole purpose of educating our clients on the real dangers of fire. We encourage all of our clientele, residential, commercial, municipal and industrial to have fire drills.

Take a look at some of the disturbing statistics courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association and make some real changes in your life. These changes could save your life.



Did You Know?



A house fire can become uncontrollable in less than three minutes. Stop and think about that. When you do your fire drill in your home, can everyone be alerted and escape safely in less than three minutes? Can they do so if one form of egress is blocked? Give your children a stop watch and have them time you. Make it a real family effort!



The Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association and the Wallingford Fire Marshal's Office remind residents to check their smoke and CO detectors monthly, and replace batteries twice yearly. As safety professionals, we continue to advocate the importance of residential fire sprinkler systems. With these immediately responsive fire suppression systems in place, we can save lives and your property.

Carmen A. Rao
Fire Marshal
Town of Wallingford



Meanwhile back at the office...



John III	September 3rd
Mike	September 3rd
Angela	September 12th
Elaine	September 29th
Sandy	October 11th
Jonathan	October 13th
John IV	October 15th
Denise	November 28th

Jason Sokol, our operations manager recently attended ESX, the Electronic Security Expo in Nashville, Tennessee. The event, sponsored by ESA, The Electronic Security Association, hosted hundreds of participants from North America and beyond.

Jason was proud to be a part of the Connecticut contingency who won the trifecta of what is considered to be the most coveted of all awards in the alarm association.

Dan DePaolo and Chris Scarmana, service technicians were both nominated for the 40 Under 40 in security sponsored by Security Systems News Magazine. Dan participates in the Connecticut Alarm Association and Chris is focusing on his next level of NICET certification. We're so proud to have these gentlemen as part of our team!

John III	30 years
Debbie	26 years
Ray	16 years
Barbara	9 years
Gary	8 years
Christopher	7 years

I am interested and would like more information about :
 (please check all that apply and return with your payment, via fax 203-265-0727 or via e-mail dsokol@monitorcontrols.com)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Motion Detection | <input type="checkbox"/> Pull Stations | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Surveillance | <input type="checkbox"/> Elevator Phone Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass Break Detection | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Monoxide Detection | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Video Recorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Activity Reporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stress Sensors | <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature Sensors | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Access Video App | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Event Reporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Friendly Detection | <input type="checkbox"/> Sump Pump Alarms | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercom/Video Intercoms | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Apps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Beams | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Sensors | <input type="checkbox"/> Door Entry Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrading My Alarm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security Screens | <input type="checkbox"/> AC Power Monitors | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Call-for-Aid Boxes (for schools and/or parking lots/garages) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduling an Inspection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Bars | <input type="checkbox"/> Tamper Switches | <input type="checkbox"/> PERS Units (Personal Emergency Response aka Medical Emergency) | <input type="checkbox"/> Updating My Emergency Contacts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driveway Sensors | <input type="checkbox"/> Access Control Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Key Vaults/Knox Boxes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat/Smoke Detection | <input type="checkbox"/> Card Readers | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flame Detection | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Strikes | | |

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 to provide me with further information about the services indicated above. My customer account # is _____
 (account #)