



CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

Burnsville Fire Offers Holiday Travel Safety Tips

For those getting ready to leave for some well-deserved holiday travel – and leave their home empty for a few days – the Burnsville Fire Department offers the following tips to help keep homes, and people safe during the holiday season.

- Before leaving home, turn off or disconnect all stoves and other electrical appliances.
- Unplug television sets, computers and radios – storms or sudden electrical surges could cause a fire in these devices.
- Upon return, check to make sure your smoke alarm is working.

If traveling to a hotel, cabin – or even a family member's home – remember the following:

- Pack a flashlight with fresh batteries. It can guide you through a dark, smoky hallway or be used to signal rescuers.
- When making reservations, request rooms close to ground level and ask if the hotel/motel has smoke alarms and sprinklers.
- Although you may only be planning a short overnight stay, take along a smoke detector. Fire codes vary, and your room may not have one.
- Before you begin to unpack and relax, look around and pre-plan your escape in case of fire. The few minutes it takes may make the difference between a safe escape and injury or death.
- Walk down the hallway and count the number of doors to the nearest fire exit. Know exactly how to get to it.
- Make note of smoke barrier doors that separate long hallways into smaller compartments. When a fire alarm sounds, they will close automatically.
- Never consider the elevator as an emergency escape route.
- Keep your room key in the same place, such as the stand next to the bed, so you don't have to waste precious seconds searching for it. You may need it if your escape route becomes blocked and you must return to your room.

- Check windows or patio doors in your room. They could be possible escape routes — especially on lower floors. If you are in a room on the third floor or higher, don't consider jumping.
- If your smoke detector or the building fire alarm activates, grab your room keys and alert other room occupants. Roll out of bed and crawl to the door. Stay low to avoid smoke and superheated gases that may have entered your room. Feel the doorknob or higher on the door. If it feels hot, do not open it — the fire may be on the other side.
- Being trapped in your room requires extra steps to defend yourself. There is no need to panic — many people have survived in hotel fires in their rooms. If the telephone works, make sure the fire department knows where you are. Fill the bathtub with water, wet some sheets and towels and stuff the cracks around the door to keep the smoke out.
- If your room door does not feel hot to the touch, brace your shoulder to the door and open it slowly. If you feel that hallway conditions are safe, go out (remember your key) and close the door behind you — this will minimize smoke entering your room in case you have to return. Proceed to the first floor and leave the building. If this exit is not available, return to your room.
- As you crawl to the fire exit and pass a room, knock on the door to be sure the occupants are aware of the fire.
- If you see someone going the wrong way or toward the elevator, try to get them to follow you.

For more information contact the Burnsville Fire Department at 952-895-4570, visit www.burnsville.org/fire or the State Fire Marshal's website at www.fire.state.mn.us.

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