

# Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District Safety Message

## 941-751-7675

You may have seen us in the neighborhood recently.  
We have been busy! Here are some Fire Safety tips to help keep you safe in your home!



### Electrical Safety



- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Only plug one heat producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. **NEVER** use an extension cord!
- An extension cord or power cords should **NEVER** be rolled up or in a coil when in use. A coiled cord can cause resistive heating and start a fire.
- **NEVER** place an extension cord under carpets or running through doorways. Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacles if needed.
- **Avoid overloading outlets.** Plug only one high wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- Power strips are to be used for low amperage electrical devices only (cell phone, computer, cable box, etc.).
- If an outlet or switch feels warm, you are tripping circuits or you notice flickering/dimming lights, discontinue use and call a qualified electrician.



### Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, tasteless, odorless gas that comes from burning fossil fuels (gasoline, propane, methane, coal or wood). A CO alarm looks like a smoke alarm but activates when it detects certain levels of CO in the air.

Alarms should be installed outside sleeping areas and on every level of the home.

Install and replace according to the manufactures instructions on the package.

If the alarm sounds, get outside and get fresh air. Open a window or door and call the fire department from the outside. Do not go back inside. Stay there until help arrives.

### Smoke Alarms.....In the Home

You may never think about your smoke alarm until it sounds an alarm, but a battery operated smoke alarm needs your attention before there's a fire.

Smoke alarms have a working life of ten years. After **ten years** they need to be **replaced**. An alarm older than ten years may give false alarms or may not work at all when there is a fire. The light flashing on the device only means it has power, not that it will work when you need it. It's a good idea to write the month and year you replace your alarms on the back of the device. Then you will know when to replace it.

When shopping for new alarms, look for the Lithium (non-replaceable sealed in) battery operated smoke alarm with a HUSH control to temporarily silence nuisance alarms. The battery power supply should last the life of the smoke alarm (ten years).

Smoke alarms should be placed high on the ceiling or wall. Keep alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. Alarms installed within 20' of cooking appliances should be of the photoelectric type.

Your smoke alarm should be cleaned at least once a year. Clean the interior chamber by using compressed air or vacuum through the openings around your alarm.

Alarms should be located inside and outside of every sleeping area. Locate at least one alarm on every level of the home. This includes additional alarms on stairways.

Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to make sure it is working properly.