

Memorandum



Date: September 6, 2013

To: Members of the Public Safety Committee

Subject: Inspection and Life Safety Education Division

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on Inspection and Life Safety Education Division on Monday, September 9, 2013.



Charles M. Cato
Interim Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, Interim City Manager
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Warren M. S. Ernst, Interim City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Judge Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Teresa O' Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Libro, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager



**Inspection and Life Safety
Education Division**

**Public Safety Committee
September 9, 2013**



Purpose

To provide an overview of:

- Organization
- Resources
- Inspection activities
- Educational activities
- Accomplishments



Goals

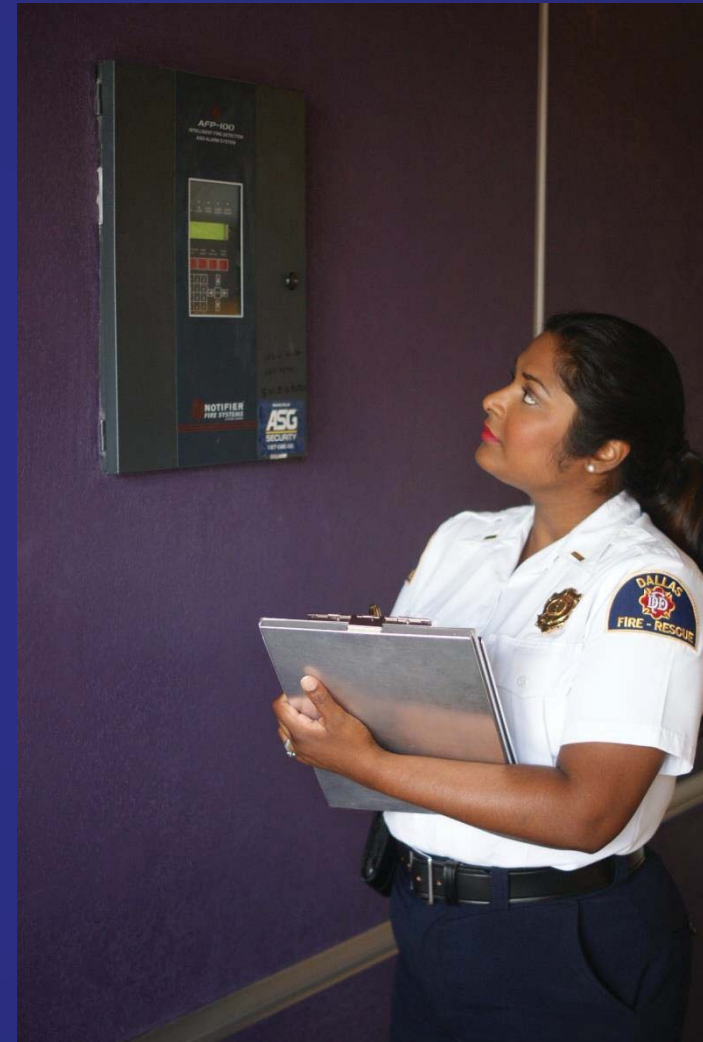
- Prevent fire and life safety hazards
- Educate citizens
- Ensure fire safe construction
- Promote public safety
- Foster community relations



Field Inspections

Field inspections include:

- Inspect life safety systems
- Inspect for fire code violations
- Investigate citizen complaints
- Maintain fire lane compliance
- Check for certificate of occupancy
- Issue fire permits when applicable



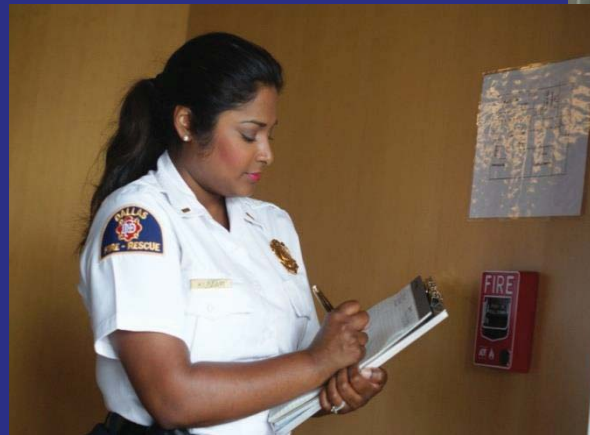
Field Inspections Include:

- General business
- State licensed facilities
 - Daycares
 - Assisted living facilities
- Hotels and Motels

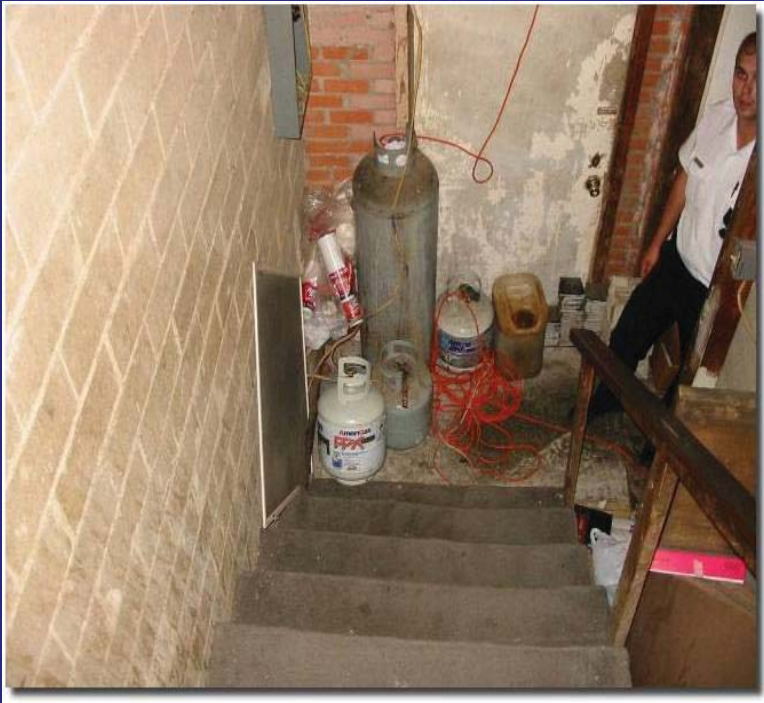


Field Inspections

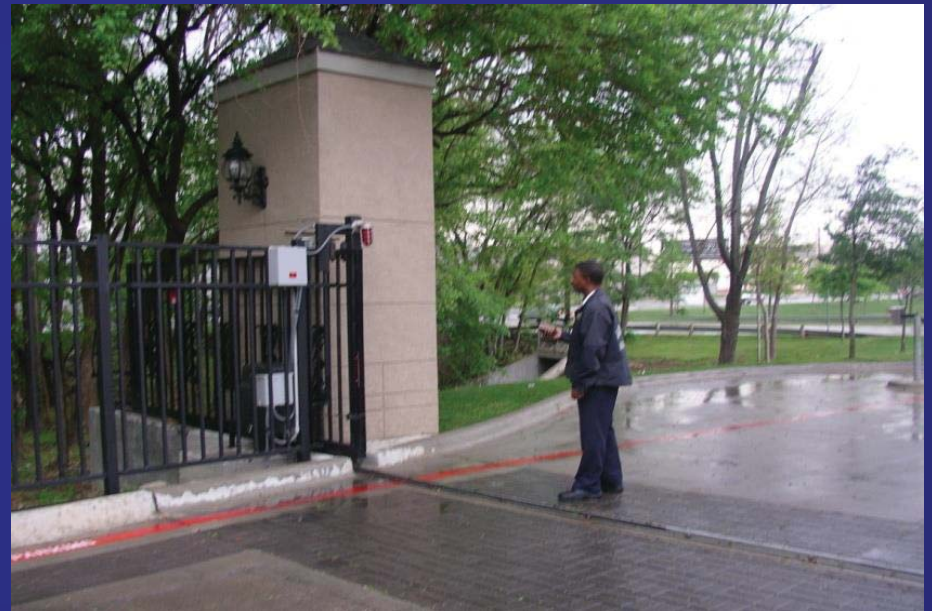
- Schools
 - Public
 - Private
- Public Assemblies
 - Night clubs
 - Bars
 - Restaurants
 - Theaters
- Multi-family dwellings



Multi-family Dwellings



- Check fire lanes and gates
- Check fire department access
- Permits issued for use of limited access gates



- Test smoke alarms
- Investigate complaints
- Approval of chemical storage
- Issue permits for “Hot Work” (welding & cutting permits)

Task Forces

Certain facilities are inspected:

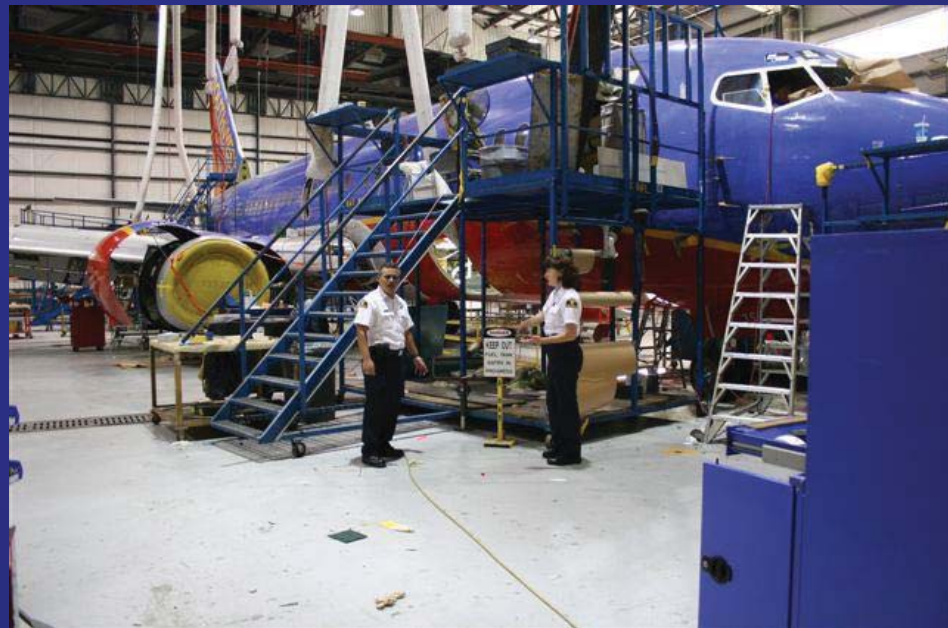
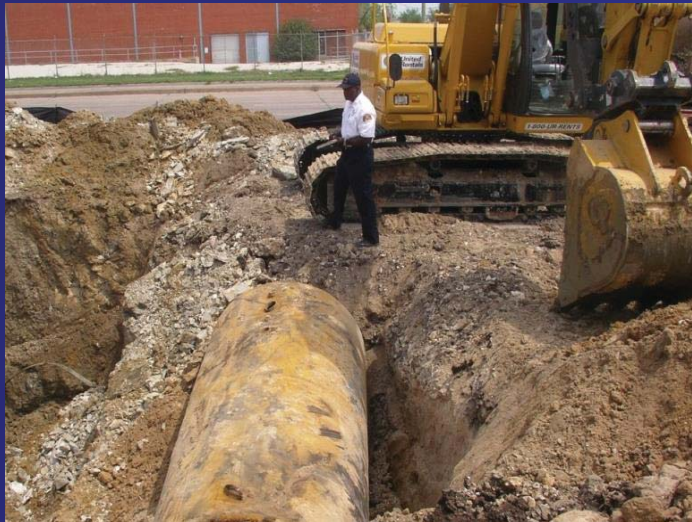
- In alternating years
 - Hazardous materials locations
 - High rise



Haz-Mat and Airports



- Inspect hazardous materials facilities
- Inspect aboveground/underground flammable liquid storage tanks
- Inspect spray paint booths
- Issue hazardous materials permits



High Rise Buildings

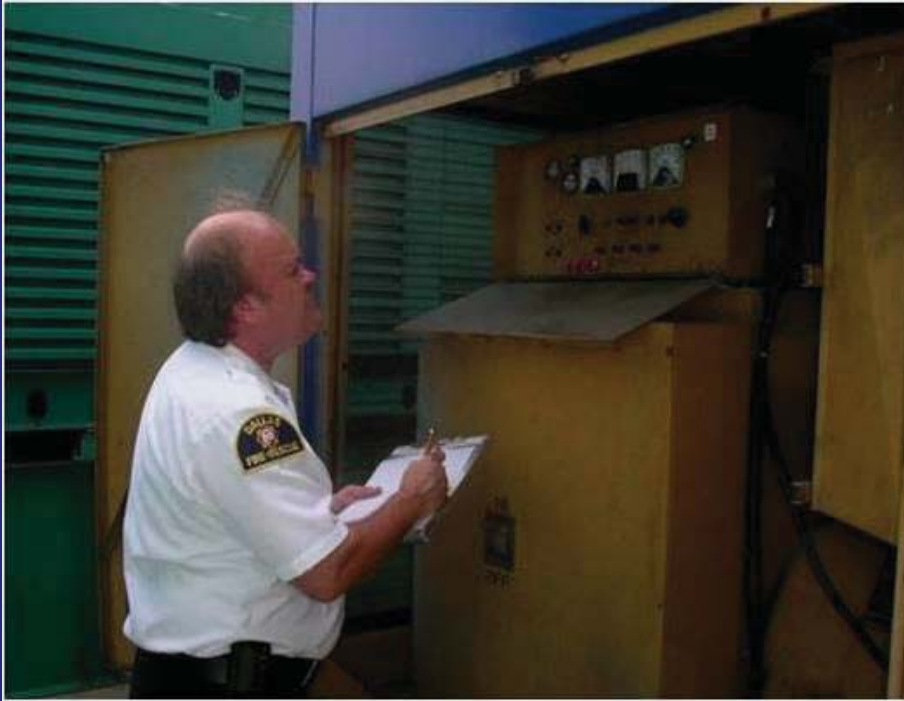


- 493 High Rise buildings
- Review fire safety plans and conduct fire drills
- Inspect and test life safety systems

New Construction

➤ Testing Life Safety Systems:

- Automatic sprinkler
- Fire alarm
- Elevators



- Check for fire department access
- Testing of electronic egress devices
- Testing of emergency generators

Tradeshows, Conventions, and Special Events



- Check emergency exits
- Check for overcrowding
- Inspect life safety systems
- Monitor pyrotechnic and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) displays



Boarding Homes

- Currently have 462
- Inspections are conducted by a Senior Fire Prevention Officer (SFPO)



Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living

- 51 nursing homes and 56 hospitals inspected yearly



- Investigate complaints
- Check life safety systems
- Issue appropriate permits

Inspection & Life Safety Education Statistics

2011-2012

Inspections:	82,628
Re-inspections:	18,979
Permits Issued:	4,306
Hazards Found:	46,797
Hazards Corrected:	41,473

2012-2013 *

Inspections:	110,572
Re-inspections:	20,501
Permits Issued:	4,797
Hazards Found:	64,882
Hazards Corrected:	58,176

* Estimations made based on current input data through August 19, 2013



Public Education



Community Involvement

Inspection & Life Safety Education is involved in community activities throughout the year:

- Senior education programs - 730+ educated
- Fire and life safety booths at community events – 30,150+ educated



Community Involvement

- DISD and private school events – 19,000+ educated
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and fire extinguisher 4,000+ educated



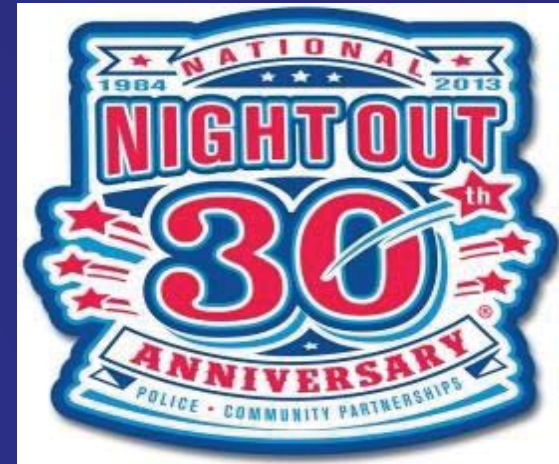
Fire Prevention Month 2013



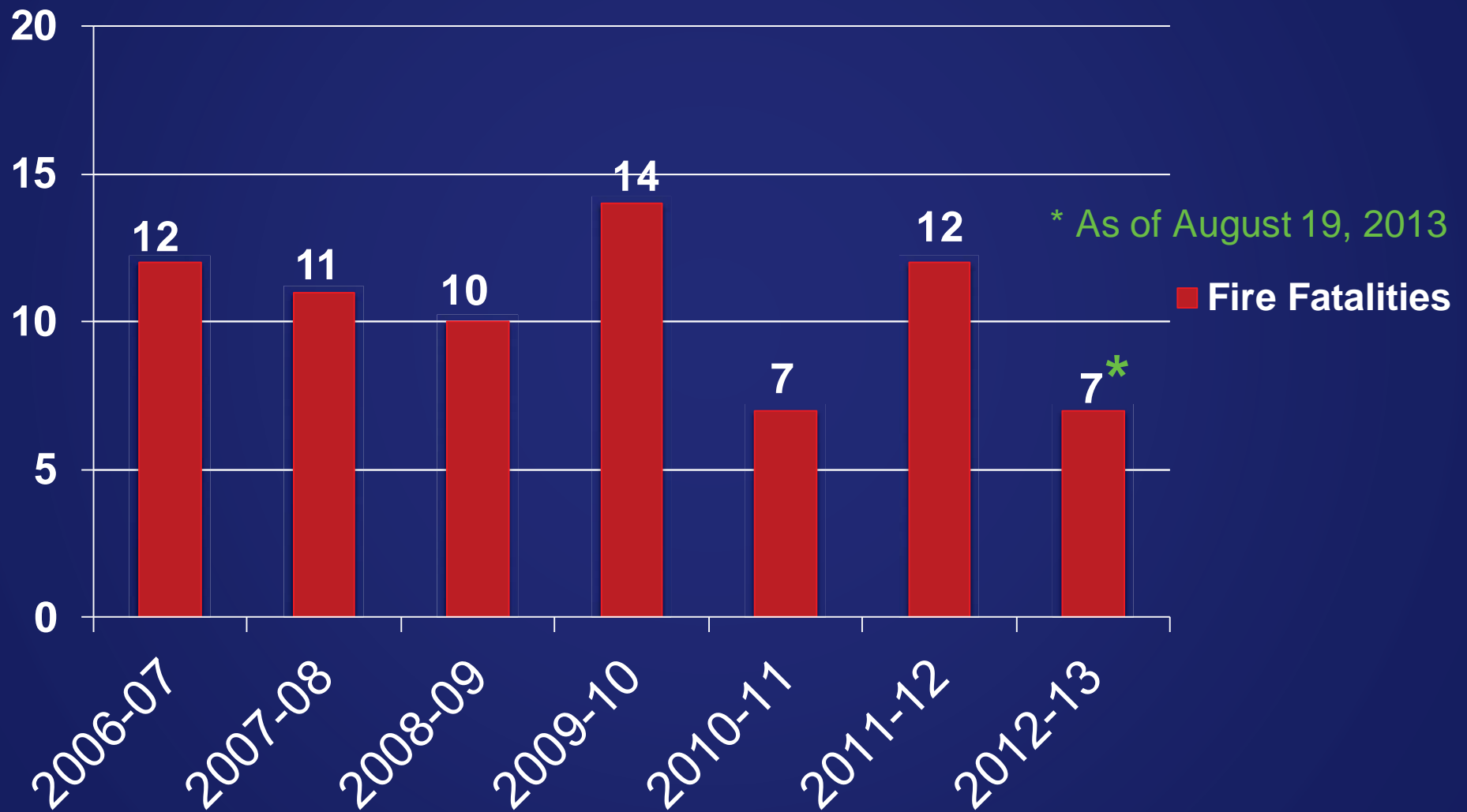
- National Fire Protection Association named **“Have 2 Ways Out!”** as the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Week
- October 6th – 12th is officially Fire Prevention Week but, we consider October to be Fire Prevention Month and we participate in many educational programs

National Night Out- October 1st

- Bringing engines, trucks and educational materials, DFR plans to attend various community gatherings
- At 6:00 pm, citizens are encouraged to participate in a city wide home fire safety drill
- Citizens are urged to design an escape plan and practice this plan with their families before joining their neighbors



Fire Fatalities



Top Causes of Fires in Dallas

- Arson Fires - 38.99%
- Electrical - 17.24%
- Unattended cooking - 9.35%
- Combustibles too close to heat source - 9.81%
- Other (acts of God, etc.) – 24.61%



Smoke Alarm Installations



- Free to single family dwellings in the City of Dallas
- Smoke alarms are tamper proof with 10-year lithium batteries
- There is a 50% greater chance of surviving a residential fire with a working smoke alarm
- Call 3-1-1 to request smoke alarms

Smoke Signals

- A quarterly fire and life safety newsletter in English and Spanish that is hand delivered and E-mailed to Homeowner Associations
- Smoke Signals are updated to address the changing hazards of the seasons and concerns of the community



The newsletter cover features a fire background with the title "Smoke Signals" and subtitle "A Life Safety Newsletter". It includes the Dallas Fire-Rescue logo, the City of Dallas logo, and the issue information: "Volume 5, Issue 1 Summer 2013".

Lightning Safety:
Did you know that lightning strikes and lightning fires occur most often in the summer? Know what to do to keep you and your family safe if it does strike.

- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of a lightning. Seek shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle. Do Not go under tall trees. There is no place outside that is safe during storms.
- Stay away from windows and doors. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before leaving your shelter.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. They can conduct electricity.
- Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately. Call 9-1-1.



What is Causing our Homes to Burn?

Electrical:
Still one of the leading cause of residential fires in Dallas. Remember not to use extension cords for permanent wiring and avoid overloading power strips and electrical plugs. Do not run electrical cords across doorways or under carpets. Many older homes are not properly wired for today's modern appliances so remember to be cautious in your use of electricity.

Unattended Cooking:
More home fires begin in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Keep anything that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains away from your stove top. If a pan fire begins on your stove, slide a lid over the top of the pan to suffocate the fire. Get everyone out and call 9-1-1 immediately.

12/13-16

Does your home have a working smoke alarm?



If your home does not have a working smoke alarm, please call 3-1-1. Dallas Fire-Rescue will be glad to install a free smoke alarm for you!

Improperly Discarded Smoking Materials:
Discard cigarettes, cigars and pipes safely and completely. Never drop smoking materials in a trash can or out the car window. Make sure your smoking materials are extinguished by running them under the water until they are cool to the touch. If you smoke, it is always best to smoke outside.

Combustibles too close to heat:
Summer heat sources include camp fires and grills. Properly extinguish all camp fires and keep a 3 foot clearance of combustibles from any heat source. Grilling on apartment balconies is prohibited unless the balcony has a sprinkler system and a 10 ft. clearance of combustibles is provided.

Children playing with fire:
Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start fires by playing with matches and lighters... And are most likely to die in them. Never use matches or lighters as a source of amusement-children may imitate you. If you know of a juvenile who has shown tendencies to start fires, call 214-670-4312. Our Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program can help you.

Pool Safety:
Children ages 1 to 4 have the highest drowning rates. Among children 1 to 4 years old, almost 30% died from drowning. Fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years. Keep your pool safe this summer with these tips:

- Pool barriers should be at least 4 ft. high with self closing, self latching gates that open outward, away from pool area.
- Teach children to never go near water without an adult.
- Keep toys away from the pool and out of site. Toys can attract children to the pool.
- Enroll in Red Cross swim lessons and CPR courses.



Dallas Firefighters Museum

- Dallas Firefighters Museum continues raising funds to provide an interactive educational facility located in the current Firefighters Museum



FY 12-13 Accomplishments

- Increased the number of inspections in High Risk areas:
 - Healthcare Facilities
 - High Rise
 - Assembly Occupancies
- Customer Satisfaction = 99% Superior or Above Average (294 responses received as of August 19, 2013)
- Installed over 5,111 smoke alarms

FY 12-13 Accomplishments

- Confiscated 351 pounds of illegal fireworks
- Submission of the 2012 International Fire Code with amendments for adoption as the Dallas Fire Code
- Review and revision of Inspection and Life Safety Education Operating Procedures – completed March 2013



Questions?