



FIRE PREVENTION

Home fire prevention for Pasco County residents



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Be prepared

Fire is the sixth-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in the United States. Home may be the place people feel safest, but it's actually the place they're at greatest risk of injury or death from fire.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 77 percent of all U.S. fire deaths occur in the home. A civilian dies in a home fire every three hours and 20 minutes.

Do you know what to do if a fire starts in your home? You may have as little as two minutes to safely escape a typical home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds.

The best way to avoid injury in case of fire is to be prepared. By taking steps to eliminate potential fire hazards in your home and knowing what to do in case a fire does break out, you can help yourself and your family avoid property damage, injury and even death.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association, National Safety Council

Fire in Pasco County

In 2017, Pasco County had: **11 firefighter injuries**

323 structure fires

17 CIVILIAN FIRE INJURIES

562 other fires

\$12.3 million total loss

211 vehicle fires

Source: Florida State Fire Marshal

43 wildfires

In 2017, there were 1,319,500 fires reported in the U.S. These fires caused:

3,400 civilian deaths

14,670 civilian injuries

\$23 billion in property damage

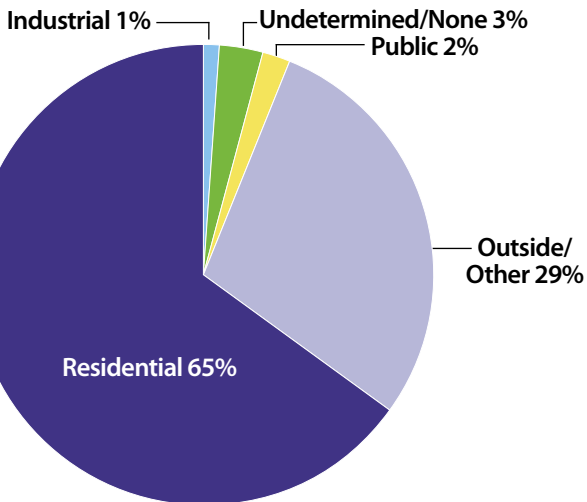
Source: National Fire Protection Association

Fire in Florida

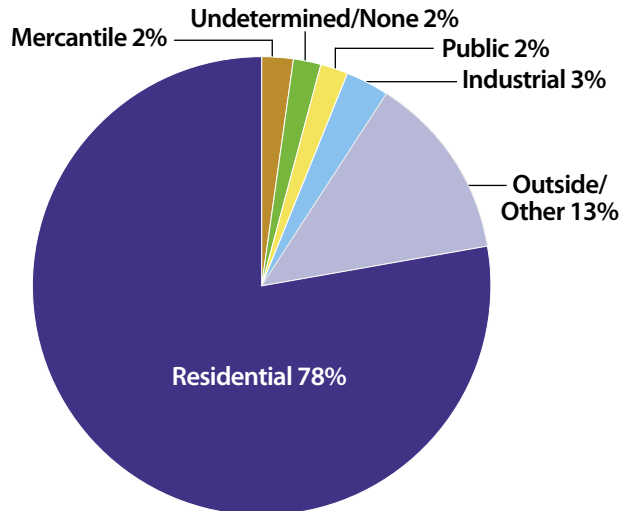
In 2017, 200 Florida civilians died from fire-related incidents, and 1,312 civilians were injured.

Forty-one percent of all fires in 2017 occurred in residences. Sixty-five percent of all fire deaths and 78 percent of injuries took place in residential properties.

Civilian deaths from fires in Florida in 2017 (by property use)



Civilian injuries from fires in Florida in 2017 (by property use)



Sources: Florida Department of Health, Florida State Fire Marshal

Student activity: Going beyond the text

Fire safety

Fire safety is essential for everyone to know and understand. The more you and your family know about fire and fire safety, the better your chances of preventing a tragedy are. Research fires and fire safety on the Internet. In addition, look for articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* that pertain to fire and fire safety. Write a letter to the editor about the importance of what you have learned. Be sure to include specific examples from your sources to support your ideas. Once you are finished editing your letter, share it with your family and classmates.

Make your home fire escape plan

Everyone needs to have a family fire escape plan. It is important to have an escape plan before a fire occurs, so everyone is prepared and ready to act.

- Walk through your home and identify all possible exits and escape routes. Note two ways out of each room. Draw a floor plan of your home that shows all exits and smoke alarms.
- Make sure that all escape routes are clear of furniture and obstructions.
- Make sure that all doors and windows can be opened easily by all household members.
- If your home has two floors, every household member (including children) must be able to escape from the second floor rooms. Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route.
- Choose an outside meeting place a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped.
- If anyone living in your household has decreased mobility, hearing or eyesight, see the tips on Pages 10-11.
- Talk about your escape plan with everyone in your home.
- Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year. Practice using different routes to get out. Practice during the day and at night.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

In 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to:

A fire every 24 seconds

A structure fire every 63 seconds

A home fire every 88 seconds

A highway vehicle fire every 188 seconds

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Fire-related injuries

Fire-related injuries are caused from smoke, fire or flames, and can include burns, poisonings, smoke inhalation and other injuries.

Source: Florida Department of Health

Kitchen safety



Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths.

Between 2011 and 2015, fire departments responded to an average of 466 home cooking fires per day in the U.S.

Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor to these fires.

- Cooking equipment causes almost half of all home fires.
- Two-thirds of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.
- Ranges or cooktops account for the majority of home cooking fire incidents.
- Unattended equipment is a factor in one-third of reported home cooking fires and almost half of the associated deaths.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Cooking DOS and DON'TS

- DON'T use the stove if you are sleepy or have used alcohol or drugs.
- DO wear short sleeves or roll up sleeves.
- DO stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling or broiling food.
- DO turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- DO turn off the stove if you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time.
- DO remain in the home while simmering, baking or roasting food and check it regularly.
- DO use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- DO keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop (oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, dish towels, etc.).

Sources: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Administration

Frying safety

- Always cook with a lid beside the pan.
- Always stay in the kitchen when frying food on the stovetop.
- Heat oil slowly to the temperature needed.

- Add food gently so the oil does not splatter.
- Immediately turn off the burner and carefully remove the pan from the heat if you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

What to do if you have a small cooking fire:

- Never throw water or use a fire extinguisher on a cooking fire.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- For a stovetop fire, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For a microwave fire, leave the door closed, turn the microwave off and unplug it from the wall.

If the fire does not go out or you have any doubt about fighting it:

- Get everyone out of the home.
- Close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 from outside the home.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Grilling safety

Between 2011 and 2015, fire departments responded to an annual average of 9,600 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues per year, including 4,100 structure fires.

Here are some tips to enjoy your grill safely:

- Grills and smokers should only be used outdoors.
- Place grills away from your home and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging tree branches.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the grill area.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Remove grease or fat buildup from grills and trays before using.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Charcoal grill safety tips

- If you use starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid.
- Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.



Propane grill tips

- Always check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.
- To check for leaks, apply a soap-and-water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.
- If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill.
- If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.
- If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least five minutes before relighting it.

Source: National Fire Protection Association



Student activity: Going beyond the text

Fire safety

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries and the second-leading cause of home fire deaths. That is a scary thought. How can people get the message out to others about the information on these pages? A media campaign can be used when you want to get a message out about a theme, a product or an event, such as fire safety. Working together with your family members, other students, your friends or peers, come up with a plan to get your school, neighborhood and family to focus on the topic of fire safety, especially in the home. Look at the ads in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Think about the dynamics of the ads. Think about ways to draw people's attention to an ad and its message. Next, design an ad for the print and digital editions of the *Times* and tampabay.com that focuses on fire safety for people of all ages.

How is the ad on the print edition going to be different than the web version of the ad? Share your ideas with your family, friends and classmates.

Smoke alarms

save lives



Fire and smoke are fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside to safety quickly.

● Install smoke alarms:

- inside each bedroom.
 - outside each sleeping area.
 - on every level of the home.
 - on the ceiling or high on the wall.
 - away from bathrooms and the kitchen.
 - at least 10 feet away from the stove.
- Install interconnected smoke alarms when possible (when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound).
 - Test your smoke alarms by pressing the test button at least once a month.
 - Clean your smoke alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Replace smoke alarm batteries once a year or when they make a "chirping" sound.
 - Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years.
 - When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Call 9-1-1 from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



How to choose a smoke alarm

- Look for the UL label on the packaging to make sure the smoke alarm meets the Underwriters Laboratories Standard.
- Choose a dual-sensor smoke detector. These detectors combine ionization and photoelectric technology to detect both flaming and smoldering fires.
- When possible, choose smoke alarms that can be interconnected (when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound).
- If anyone with hearing loss lives in your home, choose smoke alarms that flash a light in addition to sounding an audible alarm.

Sources: Consumer Reports, National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



Source: National Fire Protection Association

Types of smoke alarms

- Ionization smoke alarms respond quickly to flaming fires. These smoke alarms are triggered when smoke disrupts the flow of electricity between two electrodes inside the alarm.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms respond sooner to smoldering fires. These smoke alarms are triggered when smoke interrupts a light beam inside the alarm.
- Dual-sensor smoke alarms combine ionization and photoelectric technology to detect both types of fires.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Smoke alarms for people with hearing loss



Test smoke alarms to make sure everyone in your home can hear them, even when they are asleep. Smoke alarms and alert devices designed for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are widely available. If anyone in your household is deaf or hard of hearing, consider:

- Smoke alarms with high-intensity strobe lights.
- Alert devices that produce loud, low-frequency sounds.
- Pillow or bed shakers activated by the sound of the smoke alarm.

If possible, a household member and a backup person should be assigned to help awaken those with hearing loss during fire drills and emergencies.

Smoke alarms and alert devices designed for people who are deaf or hard of hearing can be purchased through home improvement store websites or by searching the Internet for "strobe-light smoke alarms." Always choose devices that have the UL label on the packaging to make sure the smoke alarm meets the Underwriters Laboratories Standard.

Sources: *Electrical Safety Foundation International, National Fire Protection Association*



Student activity: Going beyond the text

Smoke and vapor

Webster's dictionary defines smoke as "the visible vapor and gases given off by a burning or smoldering substance, especially the gray, brown or blackish mixture of gases and suspended carbon particles resulting from the combustion of wood, peat, coal or other organic matter."

All smoke contains carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and particulate matter, otherwise known as soot. Smoke also can contain chemicals, which can be deadly when inhaled by people or animals. That is why smoke alarms are so important. Do some research about the components that make up smoke on the Internet. Find out what particles are unburned during a fire and what toxic gases are released during a fire. Next, look through the *Tampa Bay Times* for everyday items you have in your house. Make a list of the items that may produce deadly gases during a house fire.

Watch a video about home smoke alarm basics:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=4LQ6uhXAzvk.



Space heater safety

Heating is the second-leading cause of all residential building fires, after cooking. When the weather cools down, many Floridians turn to space heaters to stay warm.

Space heaters may keep us warm, but they can be very dangerous if not used correctly: Forty-three percent of home heating fires and 85 percent of home heating fire deaths involved space heaters.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Administration

U.S. fire departments responded to 54,030 home heating fires between 2011 and 2015. These fires caused:

480 civilian deaths **\$1.1** billion

1,470 CIVILIAN INJURIES in direct property damage

Source: National Fire Protection Association

How to choose a space heater

- Look for the UL label on the packaging to make sure the heater meets the Underwriters Laboratories Standard.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Choose a heater with an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.

Sources: Consumer Reports, National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, U.S. Fire Administration

Call a qualified electrician right away if you have:

- frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.
- a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance, outlet or switch.
- discolored or warm wall outlets or switches.
- cracking, sizzling or buzzing from outlets.
- a burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance, outlet or switch.
- flickering or dimming lights.
- sparks from an outlet.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, National Fire Protection Association



Space heater DOS and DON'TS

- DO** keep all sides of space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- DO** place space heaters on a solid, flat surface where they will not be knocked over.
- DO** keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic.
- DO** keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- DO** plug electric space heaters directly into a wall outlet.
- DO** keep electric space heaters away from water.
- DO** turn off and unplug space heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.
- DON'T** place space heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture or carpet.
- DON'T** place space heaters in high-traffic areas or doorways.
- DON'T** plug electric space heaters into an extension cord or power strip.
- DON'T** run a space heater's cord under rugs or carpeting.
- DON'T** touch an electric space heater if you are wet.
- DON'T** leave space heaters on while they're unattended or while you are sleeping.
- DON'T** refuel kerosene space heaters inside. Always refuel your cooled heater outside.
- DON'T** plug another electrical device or an extension cord into the same outlet as a heater.
- DON'T** use a space heater if the plug, cord, wall outlet or faceplate is hot.

Sources: *Electrical Safety Foundation International, National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, U.S. Fire Administration*



Electrical safety tips

Home

- Always have electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified home inspector.
- Consider having arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) installed in your home. AFCIs shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs.
- Have ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) installed in outlets in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements and in all outdoor outlets.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords indicates that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed where you need them.

Appliances

- Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster or space heater) plugged into an outlet at a time.
- Major appliances (such as refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners and microwave ovens) should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Do not use extension cords or power strips.
- Heaters and fans should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Do not use extension cords or power strips.
- Always use the appropriate watt bulb for any lighting fixture. Look for a sticker that indicates the right number of watts.

Cords

- Never run electrical cords across doorways or under carpets.
- Inspect cords for damage before use. Do not use if you find cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Buy extension cords that have the UL label on the packaging to make sure they meet the Underwriters Laboratories Standard.
- Don't plug extension cords into one another.
- Make sure extension cords are rated for their intended use (indoor or outdoor) and meet or exceed the power needs of the device being used.
- Keep outdoor extension cords clear of standing water.
- Do not nail or staple extension cords to walls or baseboards.
- Do not run extension cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors.

Sources: *Electrical Safety Foundation International, National Fire Protection Association*



Home electrical safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 45,210 home structure fires involving electrical failure or malfunction between 2010 and 2014.

These fires caused an average of 420 civilian deaths, 1,370 civilian injuries and \$1.4 billion in direct property damage annually.

Student activity: Going beyond the text

Making a difference

From fire extinguisher developers to 9-1-1 operators to law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics, there are a lot of different types of jobs that can make a difference in people's lives. Read through the pages of this Newspaper in Education supplement and review the pages of the National Fire Protection Association website, nfpa.org. With your family and classmates, make a list of all the different jobs you find. Choose five of these jobs and write a few sentences about how these people make a difference in their community. Include a list of the skills these people would need to do their jobs. Next, find an article in the *Tampa Bay Times* that depicts someone making a difference in the community. Write down the main points of the article. Share what you have learned with your family members and class.



Older adult fire safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association, people over the age of 65 are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires compared to the population at large. By age 75, that risk increases to three times that of the general population, and by age 85, the risk increases to four times.

Fire escape planning for older adults: Make an escape plan around your abilities

Everyone needs to have a family fire escape plan. It is important to have an escape plan before a fire occurs, so everyone is prepared and ready to act. See Pages 12-13 for more fire escape planning tips.

As we age, fire escape plans should be updated to address changes such as decreased mobility, hearing or eyesight.

Plan:

- Know two ways out of every room, in case one exit is blocked or dangerous to use. Remember that windows can serve as an exit.
- Consider whether older adults should sleep in a room on the ground floor to make escape easier.
- When possible, assign a responsible household member and a backup person to help people who will need assistance to escape.

- Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping. Ask if your fire department keeps a directory of people who may need extra help.

Prepare:

- Make sure that exterior doors and windows can be opened easily by all household members.
- Ensure that doorways, hallways and stairs are clear of furniture and other items that could be an obstruction or tripping hazard during an emergency.
- Keep eyeglasses, keys and hearing aids within reach next to your bed while sleeping.
- Keep a phone near the bed in case of an emergency.
- If you use a cane, walker, wheelchair or scooter, make sure that you can get to them easily and quickly.
- Make sure that walkers or wheelchairs fit through your planned exit doorways. Install exit ramps and widen doorways if necessary.
- Install battery-powered nightlights to illuminate paths of exit, or have flashlights readily available and accessible.

Practice:

- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year.
- Review and revise your fire escape plan as necessary to accommodate new health or mobility concerns.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Administration





If you smoke, be safe

Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths in the U.S. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, smoking caused 14 percent of fatal residential building fires in 2016.

Smoking material fires are preventable:

- If you smoke, smoke outside. Most deaths result from fires that started in living rooms, family rooms or bedrooms.
- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children in a locked cabinet.
- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Place it away from anything that can burn.
- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves or other things that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out. Dousing them in water or sand is the best way to do that.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Each year, smoking causes:

7,600 fires in residential buildings

An average of **365** deaths and **925** injuries

\$326 million in property loss each year

Source: U.S. Fire Administration



Smoking and medical oxygen

Never smoke, and never allow anyone else to smoke, where medical oxygen is used.

Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn faster and hotter. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire.

- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- Post “no smoking” signs inside and outside of the home to remind residents and guests not to smoke.
- Never use an open flame when oxygen is in use.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Administration

E-cigarettes

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, there were 195 separate incidents of explosion and fire involving an electronic cigarette between January 2009 and December 2016, resulting in 133 acute injuries.

Fires have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, while in a pocket and while the battery was being charged.

- Use e-cigarettes with caution.
- Always charge e-cigarette batteries according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Never leave charging e-cigarettes unattended.

Sources: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Administration



**Student activity:
Going beyond the text**

Planning ahead

No matter how old you are or how knowledgeable you are, it is important to have a plan, especially for emergencies. When it comes to fire safety, having a plan is essential. Just as your school or office has planned fire drills, your family should, also. Look through today’s *Tampa Bay Times* for two pictures of two different types of homes. Carefully review these pictures, and write a fully developed paragraph showing an escape plan for each home. Be sure to explain why the escape plan would be difficult or easy for people in the house. Based on the information and the photos, come up with a hypothetical escape plan for each home. Next, come up with an emergency escape plan for your residence. Do you live in a house or an apartment? Are there multiple stories? What happens if you cannot use the elevators or main door? Share the plan with every member of your family.

Home fire safety checklist

Kitchen safety

Do you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time while cooking?

Yes No

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

Do you use a timer when cooking?

Yes No

If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food, check it regularly. Using a timer will help remind you that you are cooking.

Are towels, dishcloths, curtains or other flammable items kept away from the stovetop?

Yes No

Keep flammable materials and objects away from hot surfaces or appliances.

Smoke alarms

Do you have smoke alarms in all the right locations?

Yes No

Install smoke alarms on each level of the home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

Can everyone in your home hear the smoke alarms?

Yes No

Install smoke alarms or alert devices that are specially designed for people who are hard of hearing or deaf.

Do you test them once a month?

Yes No

Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the TEST button.

Have you changed the batteries this year?

Yes No

Replace batteries at least once a year, or sooner if an alarm begins to "chirp."

Do you know how old the alarms are?

Yes No

Replace alarms at least every 10 years.

Space heater safety

Are space heaters located at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn?

Yes No

Keep all combustible material, such as curtains, bedding and newspapers, at least 3 feet from heating equipment.

Are space heaters placed in a safe location?

Yes No

Space heaters should be placed on a flat, level surface that is not in a doorway or high-traffic area, but never on top of furniture.

Home electrical safety

Are any switches or outlets discolored or warm to the touch?

Yes No

Stop using these switches and outlets and have them promptly checked by a licensed electrician.

Do any switches or outlets make crackling, buzzing or sizzling sounds?

Yes No

Stop using these switches and outlets and have them promptly checked by a licensed electrician.

Is any cord cracked, frayed or otherwise damaged?

Yes No

Do not use damaged cords. Replace the cord or equipment.

Are any cords located under carpets or rugs?

Yes No

Move cords or carpets so the cords are not covered.

Fire escape planning

Do you have a home fire escape plan that shows two ways out of every room?

Yes No

Draw a floor plan of your house and mark two ways out of each room.

Do you practice your fire escape plan at least two times per year?

Yes No

Everyone living in the household should practice your fire escape plan at least two times per year.

Does everyone living in the household know where the safe meeting place is outside the home?

Yes No

Everyone living in the household should practice meeting at the designated safe place at least two times per year.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International, U.S. Fire Administration

Important phone numbers

EMERGENCY:



Doctor:

Family member:

Neighbor:

Other emergency contact:

My contact information

My name:

My address:

My phone number:

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Emergency information sheet

Even the most basic information can be hard to recall during an emergency. Fill out this emergency information sheet and post it on your refrigerator or in another easily visible location near your telephone so that you can easily provide this information to 9-1-1.

**Student activity:
Going beyond the text**

Newspaper scavenger hunt

Look for the words on this list in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Find as many words as possible. Next, define the words you find and create a word search, definition or matching game out of these words for your family.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| alarm | firefighter |
| carbon monoxide | flames |
| civilian | heat |
| combustible | injury |
| dangerous | prevention |
| emergency | residential |
| explosive | smoldering |
| extinguisher | sprinkler |

The first fire department

The first fire department in Pasco County was established in 1922 in New Port Richey. The all-volunteer department had one fire truck, housed in a corrugated-iron fire hall on Main Street. The *New Port Richey Press* reported, "The new fire engine was housed in its new home the other day, and it certainly looks a useful instrument. It is fully equipped with chemical extinguishers, fire ladders, axes, spades and other paraphernalia generally found useful at a conflagration."

Today, Pasco County is served by four fire agencies that provide comprehensive fire prevention and protection services: Pasco County Fire Rescue, the New Port Richey Fire and Emergency Services Department, the Port Richey Fire Department and Zephyrhills Fire Rescue.

Source: Fivay.org



New Port Richey Volunteer Fire Department, 1940
(courtesy of Fivay.org)



Pasco County Fire Rescue

Service area: **Unincorporated Pasco County, including the cities of Dade City, San Antonio and St. Leo**



Photo from Pasco County



Photo from Pasco County

By the numbers:

26 fire stations
532 full-time firefighters/paramedics/EMTs
139 volunteer firefighters/paramedics/EMTs
28 engines
27 RESCUES

Fire Prevention Education Programs

Pasco County Fire Rescue offers free fire prevention and education programs, including presentations, station tours, equipment demonstrations and fire and life-safety programs to Pasco County residents and businesses. Programs must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance. Visit pascocountyfl.net/1792/Public-Education to schedule. PCFR also participates in the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, which offers free smoke alarms to County residents. Call 813-929-2750 for more information.

Phone (non emergency): 813-929-2750

Email: FireRescue@pascocountyfl.net

Website: pascocountyfl.net/347/Fire-Rescue

Facebook: facebook.com/pascocountyfirerescue

Twitter: twitter.com/PascoFireRescue



New Port Richey Fire and Emergency Services Department

Service area: **City of New Port Richey (ZIP codes 34652 and 34653)**



Photo from City of New Port Richey



Photo from City of New Port Richey

By the numbers:

2 fire stations
23 full-time firefighters/paramedics
10 part-time firefighters/EMTs
1 ATRV
1 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team
3 engines

Fire Prevention Education Programs

The New Port Richey Fire Department offers free fire-prevention and education programs, including guest speakers and tours of New Port Richey Fire Station #1. Programs are available only to City of New Port Richey residents and businesses. To arrange a presentation or tour, call the administrative office at 727-853-1032 or email FIRENPR@CityofNewPortRichey.org.

Phone (non emergency): 727-841-4550, option 1

Email: FIRENPR@cityofnewportrichey.org

Website: cityofnewportrichey.org/city-departments/fire-services

Facebook: facebook.com/newportricheyfiredept

Twitter: twitter.com/CityofNewPortRichey



New Port Richey's First Fire Engine (courtesy of Fivay.org)

Student activity: Going beyond the text The science of fire

Fire is a chemical reaction between different chemical elements, each of which contains stored energy. In order for fire to happen, you must have the right kind of mixture to create the chemical reaction. For a fire to occur, you must have heat, fuel and oxygen. Remove any one of these elements and the fire will not happen. Fire is a visible, tangible side effect of matter changing form. Fire is one part of a chemical reaction which involves electrons. According to Albert Einstein's law of conservation of energy, energy is neither created nor destroyed; it can only change in form. This is basically what happens when a fire occurs. Learn more about the science of fire on the How Stuff Works website. Go to science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/earth/geophysics/fire. Create an infographic showing what fire is, based on the information you have learned. Share what you have learned with your class.

Next, look for images in the *Tampa Bay Times* – cartoons, photos, ads, graphics – that represent the elements of heat, fuel and oxygen. Cut out these images of these elements and create a collage.



Port Richey Fire Department

Service area: **City of Port Richey**
(ZIP code 34668)



Photo from City of Port Richey



Photo from City of Port Richey



Zephyrhills Fire Rescue

Service area: **City of Zephyrhills (ZIP codes 33540, 33541, 33542 and 33539)**



Photo from City of Zephyrhills



Times (2007)



Times (2007)

By the numbers:

1 fire station

6 career firefighters/EMTs

15 part-time firefighters

25 volunteer firefighters

1 UTV

1 water rescue/rapid diver team

2 engines

Fire Prevention Education Programs

The City of Port Richey Fire Department (PRFD) offers free fire prevention and education programs, including station tours, equipment demonstrations and fire safety presentations, to all City of Port Richey residents and businesses. PRFD also participates in the American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign, which offers free smoke alarms and fire prevention services to city residents. To learn more about PRFD programs, contact the fire station Monday – Friday during business hours at 727-816-1910.

Phone (non emergency): 727-816-1910
Website: cityofportrichey.com/fire-department
Facebook: facebook.com/portricheyfd

By the numbers:

2 fire stations

23 full-time firefighters/paramedics/EMTs

10 volunteer firefighters

16 FIRE RESCUE CADETS

2 engines

Fire Prevention Education Programs

Zephyrhills Fire Rescue offers free fire prevention and education programs, including station tours and public presentations, to City of Zephyrhills residents, community groups, schools and businesses. Zephyrhills Fire Rescue also provides young people ages 14 to 21 the opportunity to explore careers as firefighters or EMTs through Zephyrhills Fire Rescue Cadet Post 650. Cadets meet weekly for both classroom and hands-on instruction, ride along on emergency calls and volunteer at community events. To learn more about Zephyrhills Fire Rescue programs, contact Fire Administration at 813-780-0212.

Phone (non emergency): 813-780-0212
Email: FireChief@fire.zephyrhills.fl.us
Website: ci.zephyrhills.fl.us/221/Fire-Department

FM Global

This publication was funded by a grant from FM Global's Fire Prevention Grant Program.

Established nearly 200 years ago, FM Global is a mutual insurance company whose capital, scientific research capability and engineering expertise are solely dedicated to property risk management and the resilience of its client-owners. These owners, who share the belief that the majority of property loss is preventable, represent many of the world's largest organizations, including one of every three Fortune 500 companies. They work with FM Global to better understand the hazards that can impact their business continuity in order to make cost-effective risk management decisions, combining property loss prevention with insurance protection.

FM Global offers financial support to organizations working to combat fire through their Fire Prevention Grant Program. Fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state, regional, local and community organizations, can apply for funding to support a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness and control efforts, including pre-incident planning, fire prevention education/training and arson prevention/fire investigation. Over the past 40 years, FM Global has contributed millions of dollars in fire prevention grants to fire service organizations around the globe.

For more information about FM Global, visit fmglobal.com. To learn more about FM Global's Fire Prevention Grant Program, visit fmglobal.com/fireservice.



Educators

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Newspaper in Education

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources – a “living textbook.” Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text, a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world.

NIE serves educators, students and families by providing schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tampa Bay Times* plus award-winning original educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources – all at no cost to schools, teachers or families. In 2017-2018, NIE provided more than 1.5 million print copies and 10 million digital editions of the *Times* to area classrooms free of charge thanks to our generous subscribers and individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. NIE teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are aligned to the Florida Standards.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/TBTimesNIE. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/TBTNIE.

NIE staff

Jodi Pushkin, manager, jpushkin@tampabay.com
Sue Bedry, development specialist, sbedry@tampabay.com

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Credits

Written by Sue Bedry, *Times* staff
Curriculum activities by Jodi Pushkin, *Times* staff
Designed by Lisa Schillinger, *Times* staff

Florida Standards

This publication and the activities focus on the following Florida Standards.

Health: HE.412.B.4.4; HE.412.B.5.1; HE.412.B.5.4; HE.412.C.2.5

Language Arts: LAFS.412.L.1.1; LAFS.412.L.1.2; LAFS.412.L.2.3; LAFS.412.L.3.4; LAFS.412.L.3.5; LAFS.412.L.3.6; LAFS.412.R.1.1; LAFS.412.R.1.2; LAFS.412.R.1.3; LAFS.412.R.2.4; LAFS.412.R.2.5; LAFS.412.R.2.6; LAFS.412.R.3.7; LAFS.412.R.3.8; LAFS.412.R.3.9; LAFS.412.R.4.10; LAFS.412.RF.3.3; LAFS.412.RF.4.4; LAFS.412.RI.1.1; LAFS.412.RI.1.2; LAFS.412.RI.1.4; LAFS.412.RI.1.5; LAFS.412.RI.3.7; LAFS.412.RI.3.8; LAFS.412.RI.3.9; LAFS.412.SL.1.1; LAFS.412.SL.1.2; LAFS.412.SL.1.3; LAFS.412.SL.2.4; LAFS.412.SL.2.5; LAFS.412.SL.2.6; LAFS.412.W.1.1; LAFS.412.W.1.2; LAFS.412.W.1.3; LAFS.412.W.2.4; LAFS.412.W.2.5; LAFS.412.W.2.6; LAFS.412.W.3.7; LAFS.412.W.3.8; LAFS.412.W.3.9; LAFS.412.W.4.10

Science: SC.35.CS-CC.1.1; SC.35.CS-CC.1.2; SC.35.CS-CC.1.3; SC.35.CS-CP.1.2; SC.35.CS-CP.1.3; SC.35.CS-PC.3.1; SC.35.CS-PC.3.2; SC.4.P.9.1; SC.4.P.10.1; SC.4.P.10.2; SC.7.P.11.2; SC.7.P.11.3

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