



St. George Fire Protection District

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MEDIA RELEASE

HAVE A FIRE-SAFE 2016

The St. George Fire Department wishes the Citizens of the District and everyone, everywhere a happy, healthy, accident-free, and fire-safe 2016.

Many of us are starting off the New Year with a resolution to improve our health. The St. George Fire Department, in conjunction with the U.S. Fire Administration, urges you to factor fire safety as an additional step to maintain your health in the coming year and beyond.

Fire kills an average of 3,000 Americans a year and injures another 16,000 while causing about \$12 Billion in direct property damage.

While most people feel safest at home, U.S.F.A. data shows 83% of all fire deaths in the U.S. happen in the home. The most likely place for a fire to start and cause injury is in the kitchen, while the most dangerous fires (based on fatality statistics) originate in a bedroom. Most of these tragedies are preventable.

Please follow these tips to ring in fire safety this New Year:

- Make sure your home is protected by working smoke alarms. Half of all home fire deaths happen at night, when people are sleeping. Statistics show early warning more than doubles the odds of surviving a house fire.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month, and replace your smoke alarms when they're 10 years old. The newer smoke alarms are powered by a ten-year lithium ion battery. Even though they cost a little more they save money over their life-span.
- Cooking is the main cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking, especially at high temperatures. Fires start when the heat gets too high. If you see any smoke or grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.
- If you have children living or visiting your home (Grandparents, this means you too!) look for fire and burn hazards from their point of view. Never leave lighters or matches where children can reach them. Also, create no-play zones within three to five feet of cooking or heating appliances and fireplaces.

We are your fire department and we are dedicated to serving you. We look forward to meeting you on a school visit or fire station tour or community event, but not on the scene of a fire or serious traffic accident.

Make fire safety part of your lifestyle in the New Year!

END