NORTH COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

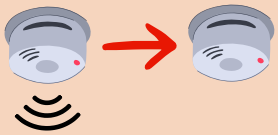
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2026

BE SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS!

LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY

A continuous set of three loud beeps - beep, beep, beep - means smoke or fire. **Get out, call 9-1-1 and STAY OUT.**

Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.



A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.

All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.

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Wildfire Safety

LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN

Check local regulations.
A permit may be required in your area.

Check conditions.
Don't burn on a windy day.

Do not burn garbage or any materials that emit dense smoke or create offensive odors.

Keep a shovel and water hose nearby when starting a campfire.

Your burn site should be surrounded by gravel or soil and at least 10ft. in all directions.

Cold Weather Safety

COLD WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

CHILDREN, ELDERLY ADULTS, THE UNSHELTERED AND THOSE WITH PULMONARY CONDITIONS ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE IN COLD WEATHER, PLEASE CHECK ON THEM OFTEN.

PETS

BRING PETS OUT OF THE COLD AND GIVE THEM WARM SHELTER

HEATING YOUR HOME

DO NOT USE YOUR STOVE OR OVEN TO HEAT YOUR HOME. NEVER USE A GRILL INSIDE YOUR HOME AS THESE CAN RELEASE DANGEROUS LEVELS OF CARBON MONOXIDE.

SPACE HEATERS

INSPECT SPACE HEATERS BEFORE USING THEM. NEVER USE A SPACE HEATER NEAR ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN. DO NOT USE EXTENSION CORDS WHEN USING SPACE HEATERS.

SAFETY FIRST

HAVE WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS THESE CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE.

Halloween & Thanksgiving Safety

BEWARE!

Haunting Halloween Fire Hazards

KEEP CANDLES AND JACK-O-LANTERNS AWAY FROM AREAS WHERE CHILDREN MIGHT BRUSH AGAINST THE FLAME.

AVOID BAGGY OR OVERSIZED COSTUMES TO PREVENT CONTACT WITH EXPOSED CANDLES OR FLAMES.

USE COSTUMES MADE WITH FLAME-RESISTANT FABRICS.

PRACTICE SAFE COOKING THIS THANKSGIVING

HOME COOKING FIRES HAPPEN MOST OFTEN ON THANKSGIVING. STAND BY YOUR PAN. IF YOU ARE COOKING AT HIGH TEMPERATURES, TURN OFF THE BURNER BEFORE LEAVING THE KITCHEN.

Christmas Safety

‘Tis the Season to Get Prepared

Whether you are traveling for the holidays, or staying close to home, get yourself and loved ones prepared for when a disaster happens:

- **Help your loved ones download an emergency alert app from their city or county.**
- **Complete an emergency contact list to hang on the fridge .**
- **Help prepare a Go Bag with essentials for when you have to leave your home in a hurry. Be sure to include a copy of your home or renters insurance policy.**
- **Update your Stay Box of supplies for when you can’t leave home during a disaster.**
- **Find resources on checking and updating your home insurance coverage and what to do if you are dropped by your insurer.**

Visit www.northcountyfire.gov for more information about protecting your home.

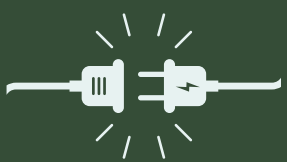
HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Water your Christmas tree everyday. Dry needles can ignite quickly.

Use a fire screen to protect family members from dangerous embers that can ignite nearby object.

Make sure the fire is fully out before hitting the hay.

Have your chimney inspected at least once a year by a professional.



Plug light strings into separate power sources.

Don't use cheap or worn out extension cords to power holiday lights and displays.

Be mindful of flammable items such as plastic bags and towels that can accumulate in the kitchen while cooking.

Don't allow children to run around unattended in the kitchen with food on the stove or in the oven.

CERT Interest and Genasys Protect

CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

FILL OUT AN INTEREST FORM IN THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY WEBSITE
HTTPS://NORTHCOUNTYFIRE.GOV/HOME/CERT-CLASSES/

THE CERT PROGRAM TEACHES DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND BASIC RESPONSE TO:

- FIRE SAFETY
- DISASTER MEDICAL OPERATIONS
- LIGHT SEARCH AND RESCUE