



Headline: January 27, 2006

*Minnesota starts off 2006 with increase in fire fatalities.*

In 2005, Minnesota set a new record for the fewest annual fire deaths on record. The total number of lives lost was 37, which is still very tragic, but considerably better than the 86 fire deaths suffered a decade ago. Unfortunately over the month of January we have already suffered 11 fire deaths.

Fire affects everyone. No exclusions. Innocent people are injured or killed, property is destroyed, and families are traumatized. Immediate action must be taken by every Minnesotan to take a personal responsibility for their safety and the safety of those around them.

Please join in the battle against fire in your community. Follow the prevention tips in this brochure and take the steps necessary to protect your loved ones and yourself.



[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire)

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# FIRE PREVENTION



# Taking personal responsi bility



## TAKE A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Start by making a commitment to being aware of your surroundings and setting a good example. This will help you and others change unsafe behaviors you may not even be know you have. Go through this checklist **TODAY** with the whole family.

### *In the Kitchen*

- Clean stovetop and counters, keep them free of grease and clutter.
- Place potholders and other combustibles 3 feet from stove.
- Maintain a fire extinguisher near the exit.
- Have childproof locks on all cabinets.
- Unplug all small appliances when not in use and keep cords up and out of reach of children.

### *In the maintenance room*

- Change your furnace filter regularly and have the heating system cleaned and inspected by an industry professional annually.
- Clean around and under the laundry equipment often, and empty the dryer lint screen with each load.

- Store household cleaners on a shelf away from heat sources, pets, and children.

### *Around the home*

Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure a safe environment and teach safe behaviors. But everyone in the home needs to take a personal responsibility.

- Outlets must have no more than one cord unless it is equipped with a UL listed power strip. Place childproof plugs in unused outlets.
- Replace all cracked, frayed or damaged cords. Never run cords under rugs or carpets.
- Use ground Fault Circuit Interrupters in bathroom and kitchen outlets.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from combustibles.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood in your fireplace and always close the protective screen.
- Store matches and lighters up and out of reach of children.
- Provide large deep ashtrays if you allow smoking in our home.
- Garbage cans should be have lids and all smoking materials must be cool prior to disposal.
- Candle bases must be large enough not to tip and non combustible.

- Candles must be a safe distance from combustibles and never left unattended.
- Store all flammable liquids outdoors in a cool place up and out of reach of children.
- Store anything “not in use” in a storage shed or storage space, not piled around the home.

### *Preparing your home*

- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, and inside or near sleeping areas in accordance with the manufacturer’s directions.
- Replace any smoke alarm that you suspect may be 10 years old or more.
- Test your smoke alarm monthly and replace the batteries at least twice a year.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in accordance with manufacturer’s directions.
- Place fire extinguishers on each level of your home and in the garage, mounted near the exit.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan including two ways out of each room and a meeting place away from the home. ***Get out and stay out!***
- Teach family members to stop, drop, and roll if their clothing catches fire, and to crawl low under smoke.