



City of McKinney Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McKinney FD urges residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”

McKINNEY, Texas (Oct. 2, 2009) – Every year, roughly 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation’s emergency rooms for burn injuries. Education is the key to avoiding injuries, which is why the McKinney Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week 2009.

From Oct. 4 -10, fire officials will stress the message “Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.” This year’s campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

“The statistics are staggering. The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame burns, scalds and contact burns,” said Stacie Durham, Fire & Life Safety Specialist. “Burns are painful and can result in serious scarring and even death. When we take extra caution in our homes to ensure that the curling iron is out of children’s reach or pot handles are turned away from the edge of the stove, such injuries are entirely preventable. Keeping our homes safe from fire and preventing devastating burn injuries is a healthy change we can make happen.”

By following simple safety rules, you can **“Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned.”**

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free” zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, oven, irons, lamps or heaters.
- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object into an electrical outlet.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace or stove, or where a hot appliance might be in use.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Set your hot water temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
- Install anti-scald valves on shower heads and faucets.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

For more information on “**Stay Fire Smart! Don’t Get Burned,**” visit www.firepreventionweek.org. For more information regarding fire and life safety issues, contact the McKinney Fire Department at 972-547-2850, or visit our website at www.mckinneyfire.org.

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About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of 122,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments, and it was recently ranked as one of the Top 10 Best Places to Move by Forbes Magazine. Visit the city’s Web site at www.mckinneytexas.org.

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