



MOORE FROM THE HILL

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FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

October is National Fire Prevention Month. Last year I offered tips to prevent fires along with procedures to follow in the event of a fire. If you missed last October's issue and would like to view it, please go to www.moorefortn.net, click on "Moore from the Hill" in the left column, then click on the Oct. 15, 2008 (Home Fire Safety/Prevention) issue.

This year I would like to give you a few statistics. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, between 1999 and 2008 there was an average (nationally) of 1,634,150 fires resulting in an average of 3,625 lost lives, 18,765 injuries and an estimated \$11,634,800 in direct dollar loss each year.

In 2008, there were 1,451,500 fires in the United States. Of these, residential structures represented 78.3 percent of all structure fires. 83% of all civilian fire fatalities occurred in the home, where home is defined as one and two family dwellings and apartments.

Nashville had 7 fire deaths in 2008, all of which were in residential occupancies. Nashville had a total of 478 structure fires in 2008, for a total monetary fire loss of \$20,744,010.00. Tennessee consistently ranks in the top 10 nationally for fire deaths, with 97 fire deaths in 2008.

I am bringing these statistics to your attention to make you aware of the massive loss of life each year due to residential fires. Please do not become a statistic. Learn how to prevent fires and what to do if you have a house fire. Always remember, the month of October is an ideal time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY

When purchasing a costume, masks, beards and wigs, look for the label "Flame Resistant". Although this label does not mean these items won't catch fire, it does indicate the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly once removed from the ignition source.

To minimize the risk of contact with candles or other sources of ignition, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts. If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure they are far enough out of the way so that kids' costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.

In addition to the aforementioned fire safety Halloween tips, parents should use other cautions to protect their children from other Halloween dangers. Most of you know the drill on safety tips, but we still have a number of kids injured each year during trick or treating, so here are the tried and true things to keep in mind.

Be sure your child is properly dressed with reflective outerwear that motorists will be able to see. Always maintain visual contact with your child. Keep a flashlight with you to maneuver through the unlit areas that may pose a danger. Utilize the services offered by most area hospitals to x-ray the candy before allowing your child to eat it.

You may simply prefer to take advantage of the services provided by many area churches and parks called "Trunk or Treat." Kids love these functions, and they provide a safe and enjoyable time for your child.

If you live in the Goodlettsville area, bring the kids by Moss Wright Park on October 31 between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for Pumpkinfest. Many area businesses will have booths set up for your child to visit and collect goodies and play games. In fact, I will be manning a booth there with the help of my wife, a friendly witch named Gloria.

Regardless of which avenue you take to enjoy time with your child, please do just that; enjoy the time spent with your child and STAY SAFE!



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

I am in the process of having the results of my questionnaire tallied and I am expecting those results to be in soon. Once I have them, I will post them on my website at www.moorefortn.net. Over 1,400 of you responded and I sincerely appreciate those responses.

As always, please let me know if I may help you in any way.

Gary

The information contained in this article is not given as professional or legal advice, but for informational purposes only.