



Volume 10, Issue 2

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# City of Santa Barbara

## Get Ready Santa Barbara! Stay informed in 2011



# Are You Prepared for the Holidays



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City of Santa Barbara soon to become Tsunami Ready

### Upcoming Issue in November 2011 Fact or Fiction: Fireplaces



The fireplace is a symbol of comfort and warmth. It represents a place of coming together. The very thought of a fireplace can bring back fond memories of home and family. But where did the fireplace concept come from? Who decided fire should go indoors? What are some of the dangers associated with fireplaces? Find out in next month's Newsletter.

### 2011 Upcoming Topics

Holiday decorating is not just for Christmas anymore. Crisp air, colorful leaves and Jack-O-Lanterns guarding front yards can only mean one thing; holiday decorating season has arrived. The period from October to January may seem to be the most festive time of year, but it yields the greatest number of structure fires caused by open flame, according to the U.S. National Fire Administration. Structure open flame fires on Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day, on average, were 70 percent higher than the relative increase of these types of fires on any other day.

Let candles safely accent your holiday celebration. Scented, tall, round or square, many consumers are using candles as a source to highlight holiday décor. While these adornments add ambiance to a room, they also pose a safety hazard for many homes. Candles are the number one heat source for the majority of household fires.

NFPA reminds consumers to practice safety precautions when using candles year round, not just during the holidays. Following are some tips consumers can use to practice candle safety whether they are using them for Jack-o-Lanterns or Menorahs.

- Keep candles away from items that easily catch fire, such as decorations, window treatments, paper, wreaths and boughs
- Place candles in an area where they cannot be knocked over by children or pets
- Only use sturdy, non-combustible candleholders that securely grip the candle and won't tip over
- If a candle does not have a container, extinguish it when two inches of wax remain. If the candle has its own container, put it out when it burns down to a half-inch. This will protect table tops and prevent glass containers from burning
- Always keep lighters and matches away from children and pets. Never leave children unattended in a room with lit candles
- Remember to extinguish candles before falling asleep or leaving the room

Five things to know about safely hanging decorative lights:

- Look for the UL mark on light strings, electrical decorations and extensions cords. Remember: Green UL Mark for indoor use only and Red UL Mark for indoor and outdoor use
- Make sure light strings do not contain any loose connections, frayed or bare wires, or broken or cracked sockets
- Practice ladder safety when hanging lights
- Use plastic hooks or clips designed especially for hanging lights never nail or staple light strings
- Decorative lights are only intended for short-term use. Take them down after 90 days

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November  
Fact or Myth: Fireplaces

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Don't Give in to the Cold

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What is ICS?

# Fire Prevention Week

October 9-15, 2011

Protect your family from fires. The goal of this year's Fire Prevention Week is to protect all families, especially those at highest risk. Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. When working properly, they can cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half. For most of us, hearing the "beep - beep - beep" of our home smoke alarm is a clear signal to get out and stay out. But what if you couldn't hear the sound of the smoke alarm?



People who are deaf (those with profound hearing loss) or hard of hearing (those with mild to severe hearing loss) can't rely on sound to alert them to smoke or fire. Because the majority of fatal fires occur when people are sleeping - and because smoke can put people into a deeper sleep - it is important to have the necessary early warning of a fire to ensure that they wake up. Thankfully, there are technologies that appeal to other senses. Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf which use strobe lights to wake the person. Additionally, you can install vibration equipment - like pillow or bed shakers - which are activated by the sound of the smoke alarm. For more information go the NFPA website at [firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

## Disaster Facts: The Great Chicago Fire

The summer of 1871 was very dry, leaving the ground parched and the wooden city vulnerable. On Sunday evening, October 8, 1871, just after nine o'clock, a fire broke out in the barn behind the home of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary at 13 DeKoven Street. How the fire started is still unknown today, but an O'Leary cow often gets the credit.

The firefighters, exhausted from fighting a large fire the day before, were first sent to the wrong neighborhood. When they finally arrived at the O'Leary's, they found the fire raging out of control. The blaze quickly spread east and north. Wooden houses, commercial and industrial buildings, and private mansions were all consumed in the blaze.



After two days, rain began to fall. On the morning of October 10, 1871, the fire died out, leaving complete devastation in the heart of the city. At least 300 people were dead, 100,000 people were homeless, and \$200 million worth of property was destroyed. The entire central business district of Chicago was leveled. The fire was one of the most spectacular events of the nineteenth century, and it is recognized as a major milestone in the city's history.

Source: [The Chicago Historical Society](http://The Chicago Historical Society)

## Fire Quiz

1. What is the leading item first ignited in a cooking fire?
  - a. Clothing
  - b. Food
  - c. Paper Products
  - d. Pot Holder
2. Where do most homes fires start?
  - a. Basement
  - b. Bedroom
  - c. Kitchen
  - d. Living/Family Room
3. Home Fires peak between what time period?
  - a. Midnight-3:00 a.m.
  - b. 3:00 a.m.—6:00 a.m.
  - c. 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
  - d. 8:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.
4. All smoke alarms should be replaced every \_\_\_?
  - a. 15 years
  - b. 10 years
  - c. 5 years
  - d. 1 year
5. For the best protection all smoke detectors should be interconnected. Why?
  - a. So you don't need to change the batteries
  - b. So you only need to test one
  - c. So you know they are working properly
  - d. So that when one sounds they all sound
6. A home fire escape drill should be practiced at least how often?
  - a. Once a month
  - b. Twice a month
  - c. Once a year
  - d. Twice a year

To take the whole test click on [NFPA Quiz](#)

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3c, 4b, 5d, 6d.

## City of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Services



OES is on the web!

<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/OES>

Newsletter Author:  
Yolanda McGlinchey, Emergency Services Manager  
[YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)  
Originally Created by: Lindsay Barker, MPH

## City News

In November 2011, the City will begin to put up Tsunami Signs within the proposed inundation area along the coast. However, before that happens the City's Office of Emergency Services will be hosting a Tsunami Community Meeting. The meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday October 26, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Cabrillo Arts Pavilion. Presenters at this meeting will include representatives from UCSB, County Office of Emergency Management and the National Weather Services. For more information contact the City's Office of Emergency Services at 805-564-5711.

