

Fire from page 13A

is now available. The following advice from the Farmington Hills Fire Department will help you to keep those smoke detectors working. Test your detectors monthly. Put a reminder on the calendar so you don't forget.

Mark calendars
Install new batteries every year. The Fire Service has adopted the phrase "Change your clocks, Change your Batteries" to help remind people to replace their old

batteries. Every fall, during the last weekend of October, when we end daylight savings time and fall back one hour, you should change the batteries in all your detectors.

Also, dust and cobwebs can reduce a smoke detector's sensitivity. Clean your smoke detectors to avoid those false alarms.

A door-to-door campaign by the fire department last fall found that in just one neighborhood alone, 49 percent of the homes had no working smoke detectors.

Some had missing or dead batteries. Others had no detectors at all. One homeowner had slept peacefully for years believing he had a smoke detector just outside his bedroom. Upon our investigation, it turns out that his "detector" was really his front door chime. When was the last time you tested all of your detectors?

Plan fire drills

Your smoke detectors are the first line of defense in a fire. They alert you in time to escape safely.

Everyone in your home should recognize the sound of the detector.

You can even buy a special smoke detector for the hearing impaired. As a family, plan and practice your fire escape drill. Plan two ways out of every room. People with an upstairs should purchase a metal fire escape ladder and have it ready for use.

Once outside, have a designated meeting place for family members to gather. And never go back into the house for anything or anyone.

Practice your plan twice a year, spring and fall. Fire Prevention Week is the perfect time to practice.

Your local fire department is eager to respond to your fire safety questions. Most departments maintain a non-emergency phone number that can be called during normal Monday through Friday business hours. Fire departments recognize the importance of being pro-active in their approach to fire. In fact, responding to a fire means they have most likely

failed in their prevention effort. Fire Prevention is a partnership involving homeowners, the business community and the fire department. Prevention and preparedness can help further reduce fire deaths in the U.S. But everyone has to work together to make it work.

La. Michael R. Garr coordinates public education efforts for the Farmington Hills Fire Department. He is also involved in fire suppression and emergency medical services.

Murder, mystery, masquerade will benefit kids

Murder, mystery and intrigue will unfold at the "1860 Mystery Masquerade" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, in the historical Botsford Inn.

Presented by Chrysler Plymouth, the ball is a benefit for the children of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center.

Held in the Inn's original barn which was built in the 1800s, "Mystery Masquerade" brings guests back to the pre-Civil War era and in the midst of a murder mystery story.

Teams of two to eight people work to identify the characters and find clues to solve the mystery. Door prizes and grand prizes will be awarded.

"We brought back the murder mystery after the overwhelming success of last year's masquerade," according to Beth Ann Knisely, author of the mystery and co-chairwoman of the event with Debbie Fadool.

"We have all new characters and something a little different in store for our guests," she added.

More than 400 people are expected to attend this year's event featuring dance music from the high energy band "Stride" and

hors d'oeuvres courtesy of the Botsford Inn. A cash bar will also be provided.

Organized and coordinated by a committee of young Detroit area executives, the costumed masquerade ball was created four years ago to have a different theme each year.

Following this year's theme, guests may dress informally or in 1860 pre-Civil War costume. Suggestions for women include: a long skirt and blouse, hair pins, fans, shawls, and hoop skirts, which were popular during that era.

Men during that time period often wore a white dress shirt with a vest, boots, a pocket watch, hats and scarf-like ties tied in a bow around the neck. Organizers suggest that those who plan to attend should keep in mind the event takes place before Confederate uniforms were worn.

For 65 years, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center has provided a safe and nurturing home for special needs children.

Tickets for the "1860 Mystery Masquerade" are \$25. For more information, call the center's agency relations at 626-7527.



All dressed up and somewhere to go: The "1860 Mystery Masquerade" will raise money for the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. Beth Ann Knisely, Debbie Fadool, George Fadool, Renee Guidobono and Irene Rogers are dressed in period clothing.

Simple rules save children from burns

Three seconds. That's how long it takes for a child to receive a third degree burn — requiring hospitalization and skin grafts — from water at 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Scalds from hot water can be as severe as burns from fire or a direct heat source.

"Children are at greater risk because their skin is thinner than adult skin," said Karen Mendelsohn of Peerless Faucet Company. "They sustain burns more quickly and at a lower temperature than adults."

Approximately 30,000 children ages 14 and under were treated in emergency rooms for scald burn injuries in 1992. Of these children, 70 percent were age 4 and under.

Tap water injuries are typically the most severe, with 17 days as the average hospital stay.

Tap water burns often happen in the bath, when youngsters are left unattended in water that is too hot.

"A child does not have the built-in defense mechanism of an adult," Mendelsohn said. "A youngster trapped in hot water may scream but he may not be able to get out of the tub or shower."

Other situations include children inadvertently or intentionally turning on the hot water and scalding themselves or falling into the tub.

Hot liquid and food burns usually happen in the kitchen, when children upset cups of hot liquids, or grab pots off the stove, causing the contents to spill or drop on them. One of the simplest steps to prevent scalds is to lower water heater thermostats to 120 degrees. Also, place hot dishes at the back of the counter and keep hot foods away from the table edge.

Test water before putting children in the bath tub or shower and always stay with your child during bath time, even if the phone rings or someone knocks at the door.

Keep your lakes clean.

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