

## Fire Safety Month-Plan & Prevent



Fire is the third leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14.

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy.

Approximately 40% of fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to help prevent accidents or injuries of home fires by developing and discussing a fire plan with their family and installing safety devices- including smoke alarms. Smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying from the occurrence of fire by fifty percent.

### Preventing fire injuries and death involves being proactive.

**Here are a few examples you can take to protect a child in case of a home fire.**

- Replace batteries in all of the alarms. Set up a practice of changing batteries simultaneously each year, i.e., daylight savings weekends.
- Develop a fire evacuation plan for your home and share the plan with all family members. Also, if your child spends time at a friend's house, don't hesitate to ask the parents if they have a fire evacuation plan.
- Research proves a closed door can mean the difference between 1,000 degrees and 100 degrees in the event of a fire. In addition, 50% of house fires happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. So closing your doors before bedtime keeps you safe. [For more information, click here.](#)

[CLICK HERE to download a FIRE SAFETY checklist](#)

## SAFETY DEMONSTRATION HOUSE

*Featuring the Family/Living Room Area*

FAMILY /

# LIVING ROOM

As a family, one of the most comforting rooms to reside in together is the living room. Sometimes referred to as the “Family Room,” children spend a lot of time playing games, watching television, and reading. Therefore, many of the same safety practices followed in other rooms are especially important to follow in this room.



If your flat-screen TV doesn't hang from the wall, secure it to your entertainment unit with television straps to avoid falling on top of a child.

- Anchor heavy furniture like bookcases and media centers into wall studs using brackets or wall straps to prevent them from tipping and falling on a child.
- Glass tabletops are especially dangerous if active youngsters are at home because of their potential to crack or shatter. Beware of glass top furniture and determine if it poses a safety hazard. Also, sharp edges and corners on furniture are a danger to children. Consider padding as a way to avoid injuries.
- Cords from lamps, televisions and other electrical appliances pose a double threat: strangulation and electrocution. Eliminate slack by wrapping up these wires with electrical tape or ties.
- Secure outlets with childproof covers.
- Replace the mesh screen on your fireplace with glass doors to prevent little fingers from getting burned.
- Move large, heavy, or breakable decorative objects away from the edges of tables and off low hanging shelves.
- If you keep a toy box in the family area, check to make sure the lid is easy to open and that there are open vents in case a child should get trapped.
- Maintain good working conditions for all doors and windows.
- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including furniture, drapes, and walls.
- Keep your fireplace in good working condition. Make sure to have a spark screen that is sturdy and clean your chimney periodically.
- Clear all exits in your home. Do not block stored items or furniture.

## Featured Family/Living Room Safety Devices

**Furniture & Television Straps** - Whether your flat-screen TV hangs from the wall or is placed on a piece of furniture, secure it to your entertainment television straps to avoid falling on top of a child. Also, anchor heavy furniture like bookcases and media centers into wall studs using brackets or wall straps to prevent them from tipping and falling on a child.

**Electrical Outlet Covers** - Use outlets covers on all electrical connections in a room. Curious children can easily insert such items as a paper clip, nail file, or dinner knife into the outlet, causing burns or fire.

**Furniture Edge and Corner Covers** - Children may run in the house and not pay attention to where furniture pieces are located. Make sure to protect your child from getting injured or cut by placing padding around the area.

[Visit Charlie's House Resource Center to order home safety devices.](#)

[CLICK HERE to schedule a tour of our Safety Demonstration House](#)

[CLICK to take a Safety Demonstration House virtual tour](#)



## There is a space for you at Charlie's House.

**Charlie's House Brick-By-Brick Program** is a way to immortalize your commitment to Charlie's House and support the organization's operations. Join others, individuals and organizations, who have purchased a brick to memorialize someone special in their life or show their support for friends and family.

Your brick will be set in the courtyard area of the BMA Foundation Memorial Garden. Those visiting Charlie's House have the opportunity to enjoy the grounds. Your support ensures the growth of Charlie's House's mission by supporting safety devices provided to families touring the Safety Demonstration House. Starting cost for a brick is \$100. For more information on purchasing a brick, click the tab below.

[CHARLIE'S HOUSE BRICK COURTYARD](#)

Safety Corner is a monthly resource published by Charlie's House, to increase awareness of safety issues and ways to prevent accidents and injuries to children in and around their homes.

