



Prevention • Education • Recovery • Treatment

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## Prevention Education for Older Adults

We enjoyed sharing our Senior Prevention Program throughout the winter at the following sites:

- o Chestnut Hill Center for Enrichment
- o West Oak Lane Senior Center
- o Philadelphia Senior Center
- o St. Charles Senior Center
- o Lutheran Settlement House
- o West Philadelphia Senior Community Center
- o Golden Slipper Center for Seniors
- o Center in the Park
- o Center at Journeys Way
- o St. Anne's Senior Center

It was wonderful to meet so many enthusiastic and appreciative seniors!

### Inside This Issue:

**Update on residential fire sprinklers**

**Do you know what kind of smoke alarm is right for your home?**

**The 2010 Burn Foundation Golf Tour Schedule**

# THE BURN FOUNDATION NEWS

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## Pennsylvania Adopts Essential Home Fire Safety Standards

*Home fire sprinklers still face opposition*

Advocates for home fire safety scored a major victory last December when the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission unanimously approved updating the PA Uniform Construction Code (UCC) by adopting the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC), including residential fire sprinkler requirements for all newly constructed townhomes and one- and two-family residences. The requirement for townhomes went into effect January 1, 2010, while the requirement for single and two-family homes will go into effect on January 1, 2011.

The Burn Foundation joined fire service, building officials and other burn prevention organizations to form the Pennsylvania Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition in support of adopting the building code. Residential sprinklers have a long track record of preventing injuries and deaths from fire. Combined with smoke alarms, they are the best method of protecting families from the devastation of home fires.

While this is a huge accomplishment for the Pennsylvania Residential Fire Sprinkler Coalition, these life-saving codes face several battles before homes are built with sprinklers. Sprinkler opponents recently filed a lawsuit asking the Commonwealth Court to issue an injunction to stop the adoption of the new code. They also support the continued

use of the 2006 UCC to allow for an additional three years of public debate to discuss the potential changes.

The tactics of contesting the codes in court, while suggesting a moratorium on new codes, are part of a larger national strategy by sprinkler opponents to stall requirements from becoming reality. The Burn Foundation and other sprinkler advocates are confident that these tactics will not prevail as the public learns more about the safety and peace of mind that sprinklers provide.



Watch for updates on this story in future editions of "The Burn Foundation News," our website or the Burn Foundation page on Facebook. To clarify some of the realities of home sprinklers, turn to the next page.

- Contributed by Board Member,  
Darren Palmieri  
Global Product Manager, Residential Fire Protection  
Tyco Fire Suppression & Building Products

Scottsdale Report: 15-year study  
- Average fire loss per single family sprinklered fire incident : \$2,166  
- Average fire loss per unsprinklered residential incident: \$46,051

### Save the Date

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**Mark your calendars for these important dates and events!**

Details can also be found at [www.burnfoundation.org](http://www.burnfoundation.org)

### ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

May 2nd-8th

**2010 GOLF TOUR**  
(See schedule inside)

**NJ FIRE FIGHTERS CONVENTION WILDWOOD**

September 17th-18th

**37TH ANNUAL BURN FOUNDATION GALA**

October 15th



## New Program for Adolescents Available

Cooking is a frequent cause of home fires and the leading cause of home fire injury in the United States. As children reach middle school, they spend more time unsupervised in the home and are often in charge of younger siblings or other children. A new Burn Foundation program provides adolescents with practical strategies they can use to prevent cooking and other common household burn injuries.

“Safety Skills: Fire and Burn Prevention for You” was designed to meet the particular needs of “latchkey” kids and students in grades 5-8. Based on this group's greater capacity for learning skills and developing judgment, this comprehensive burn prevention curriculum includes a scripted power point, a short DVD, handouts, follow-up activities and games. In addition to cooking safety, students will learn about the science of the fire triangle, how to devise a home escape plan, basic burn first aid and when to call for help. It also raises awareness of the dangers of electrical and chemical burns. Students learn by active listening, participating and applying the skills presented in this engaging program. “Safety Skills” corresponds to both Pennsylvania and New Jersey state educational standards and is adaptable to use with large and small groups as well as individuals.

For more information, call Scott or Diane or visit our website.

# Residential Sprinklers Myths and Facts

**Myth:** When one sprinkler goes off, they all go off.

**Fact:** By design, only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate. Contrary to movie scenes, all the sprinklers in a sprinkler system do not activate at once. When a fire sprinkler system activates, only the sprinkler that is closest to the fire goes off - and in over 90% of the cases, one sprinkler is enough to contain or suppress the fire.

**Myth:** Small things like burning a piece of toast could trigger my sprinkler system and ruin my home.

**Fact:** Fire sprinklers are activated by extremely high temperatures, not by smoke. Only a threatening fire can generate enough heat to operate a sprinkler. Burning toast and smoking cigars will not trigger a fire sprinkler.

**Myth:** A little fire or smoke damage is better than having my whole house ruined by water damage if the sprinklers go off.

**Fact:** A residential fire sprinkler uses only 10-25 gallons of water per minute and operates early in a fire. A hose used by firefighters flows about ten times that amount, 125-250 gallons a minute. If sprinklers are not present, fires typically burn for an additional 10-15 minutes until firefighters arrive and begin spraying the entire structure with their hoses.

**Myth:** Sprinklers are too expensive to install.

**Fact:** A recent study determined the national average to install sprinklers in a new single-family home cost \$1.61 per sq. ft. - less than the cost of many typical upgrades. Additionally, many insurance companies provide financial incentives for sprinkler installation - most homeowners will save between 5-15% on the homeowners' insurance premiums.

## Gumballs!



**The Philadelphia Fire Dept.'s Prevention Division has found a new way to support the Burn Foundation!**

Special thanks to  
Deputy Commissioner  
Ernest Hargett



**Thank You**

**Hurville Volunteer Fire Company  
for hosting a Beef 'n' Beer on  
March 4th  
at PJ Whelihans to support the  
Burn Foundation.**

# BURN FOUNDATION



# 2010 GOLF TOUR

## **Monday, April 26, 2010**

### **CAMDEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS & OFFICERS**

Pennsauken Country Club (Pennsauken, NJ)  
Registration contact: George Tutwiler 856-488-1980  
gtutwiler@pennsaukenfire.org

## **Wednesday, June 16, 2010**

### **JOE RIZZO ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC**

Torresdale Frankford Country Club (Philadelphia, PA)  
Registration contact: Burn Foundation 215-545-3816  
pporter@burnfoundation.org

## **Thursday, July 8, 2010**

### **BRIGANTINE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS**

The Links at Brigantine Beach (Brigantine, NJ)  
Registration contact: Mike Lange mjlr@aol.com

## **Monday, July 26, 2010**

### **VINELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT**

White Oaks Country Club (Newfield, NJ)  
Registration contact: Lou Tramontana 609-381-1103  
ltramontana@vinelandcity.org

## **Friday, August 13, 2010**

### **EVERETT MARSHALL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

White Oaks Country Club (Newfield, NJ)  
Registration contact: Everett Marshall 609-381-2332  
mbroad@aol.com

## **Friday, September 10, 2010**

### **HOSPITAL FIRE MARSHAL'S ASSOCIATION**

Valley Brook Country Club (Blackwood, NJ)  
Registration contact: Bob Shewbrooks 215-338-1052  
bobshew@aol.com

## **Thursday, September 16, 2010**

### **CAPE MAY COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS**

5 MILE BEACH FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION  
Avalon Golf Club (Cape May Courthouse, NJ)  
Registration contact: Greg Neill  
burngolf@comcast.net or cmcfiregolf.com

## **Monday, September 20, 2010**

### **AMERICAN FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION**

Old York Road Country Club (Spring House, PA)  
Registration contact: Glenn Cooper 215-659-0676  
Glenn.cooper@gmcooper.com

## **Monday, October 4, 2010**

### **PHILADELPHIA FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 22, IAFF**

Pennsauken Country Club (Pennsauken, NJ)  
Registration contact: Local 22 215-440-4400  
JKots@iaff22.org



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**(215) 545-3816**

## Note from the President...

Even amidst the snow storms, the winter is whizzing by at the Burn Foundation. The prevention team has been putting the finishing touches on lesson plans and power points for our educational programs. We are encouraged that the Anapol Schwartz Mentorship Program has connected burn survivors and we hope to get a "chat room" set up in the near future to allow survivors to communicate. This is a very important step for the Burn Foundation. Please stay tuned to our web site for more information.

At a time when budgets are being slashed to the bone, grant makers are finding it difficult to fund new initiatives or continue with some of their previous projects. In this environment, your support of the Burn Foundation enables us to continue our vital work with the burn community. Please consider making an additional contribution now when your contribution makes such a great difference. We thank all our loyal support for over 36 years.



## New Board Chairman, George Tutwiler



**George Tutwiler** took over as Chairman of the Board in mid-January when Carol Gadsden stepped down. We are so sorry to lose Carol for lots of reasons, but particularly because, as a burn survivor herself, she added focus to our work with burn survivors. We will miss her involvement but wish her all the best. In the meantime, George Tutwiler, Pennsauken Fire Official and an eighteen-year Burn Foundation Board member, has moved from Vice Chairman to Chairman. George is enthusiastic about his new role and brings his experience as a fire fighter to our leadership. We have all worked closely with George for a long time so the transition has been very smooth. Please join us in welcoming George as our chair.

## Recognizing Burn Awareness Week

**B**urn Awareness Week 2010 was recognized the week of February 7-13th. This year the focus was on scalds, the leading cause of burn injury among children ages 4 and under.

Burn Foundation staff marked the occasion by lending a hand at the annual Health Fair held at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, talking with parents and children about staying safe from burns and handing out valuable safety information. Parents and children were excited about the Burn Foundation's new fire safety bookmarks and "Teachable Moments" *Parent's Guide and Activity Book*

Every day, 300 young Americans are taken to emergency rooms with burn injuries caused by hot liquids, steam or food. While the injuries and numbers are upsetting, even more disturbing is the fact that many of these burns could have



**Missy Lusk, a Family and Child Life Specialist at St. Christopher's, answered questions from parents**

that most of these burns could have been prevented.

Scald burns are typically related to everyday activities like bathing, cooking and eating. They often happen to children because of a lapse in adult supervision or a lack of protective measures. Young children may not be aware of the

potential dangers from hot liquids (especially steam) and foods. Because they have thinner skin than adults, young children can get serious burns at lower temperatures, in less time. A few simple measures can prevent a painful injury and a trip to the hospital:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Cook on the back burners.
- Never microwave baby bottles.
- Test food before giving it to young children.
- Keep children 3 feet away from hot objects or containers like coffee mugs, soup bowls and tea pots.

This important information can not be repeated too often! See the Foundation website ([burnfoundation.org](http://burnfoundation.org)) for more information about scalds.

# Do You Know Your Smoke Alarm?

## Photo-electric, Ionization, and Dual Sensors



**A** working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire. A recent article by our friend Bob Shewbrooks of the Hospital Fire Marshal's Association reminds us that it's important to know your smoke alarms. There are two types: photo-electric and ionization, and each is sensitive to a different type of fire.

In a flaming fire such as cooking oil or some other burning liquid that emits invisible gases, an **ionization smoke alarm** is your best bet. Studies show that an ionization detector will sound an average of 30 seconds before a photo-electric detector in this type of fire. Because flaming fires spread very quickly, that 30 seconds could save your life.

A **photo-electric** sensor looks for smoke, so smoky smoldering fires are detected more easily by this type of **smoke alarm**. These fires burn more slowly and produce less flame, so the smoke may take awhile to reach the photo cell that sets off the alarm (smoke without flame doesn't rise as quickly). While a smoldering cigarette between cushions of the sofa, or a frayed electrical cord igniting a rug may take some time to trigger the photo-electric cell, a room filled with smoke may still not set off the ionization smoke detector.

Unless you can predict where and which type of fire you are going to have, you really need both types of detector in your home. Fortunately combination (often called dual-sensor) smoke detectors are available. A recent online survey found that dual sensor detectors were less than \$10 more than the single sensor type - a small price to pay for peace of mind.

When purchasing smoke alarms, make sure that you don't confuse a combination smoke and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) detector with a smoke alarm that

contains both photo-electric and ionization sensors. In addition there are specialized alarms for people with hearing impairments or other disabilities.

The important thing is to have a working smoke alarm on every floor and outside of every bedroom in your home. Smoke alarms need to be checked to ensure their batteries are in good working order. Ten-year models

with lithium-ion batteries need to be tested less frequently than regular battery models. In any case a smoke detector wears out after 7-10 years and should be replaced.

Armed with a home escape plan that you have practiced and a working smoke detection system, your family will be well prepared for fire emergencies.

## Smoke Alarm Safety, it's easy as ABC

**One of the best ways you can protect yourself and those you love from fire injury is to have a functioning smoke alarm system. To make the most of your system, remember your ABC's:**

### **A**larm

**Use a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm."** (see article for an explanation). Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of every level of your home and outside of bedrooms. If you sleep with the door closed then put an alarm inside the bedroom(s).

- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it.
- If there is a fire, leave the home right away by crawling low under the smoke and never go back inside.
- If smoke from cooking makes the alarm sound, press the "hush" button, if your alarm has one. You can also turn on the kitchen fan or open a window until it stops making the sound. Never take the battery out of the alarm.

### **Never take smoke alarm batteries out to put into other items.**

### **B**attery

Most alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last for up to 10 years. If your smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it with a new alarm and new batteries.

### **Check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.**

### **C**heck

Children and older people can sleep through the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Make sure your escape plan includes someone that can help children and others escape from the home.