

*Welcome
to your
New Home!*



Complimentary Personal Safety Tip Guide





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Home Invasion

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



WHY ARE HOME Invasions Occurring?

The family home has become a robber’s preferred target. Knowing why can help you be prepared.

Think about the tried-and-true burglary targets for robbers. They have always been convenience stores and fast-food restaurants which are well-stocked with cash and goods. What has changed? These establishments have become increasingly more sophisticated in thwarting robbery. They have a reduced amount of cash on-hand and have hardened themselves against criminal attack by installing affordable video surveillance systems, silent alarms, and other anti-crime devices. A residence, by comparison, has become a more attractive choice. It is usually not well-protected and once the home invaders gain access, a home offers them a great deal of privacy to achieve their goal. The home invaders do not have to anticipate the police suddenly driving up or customers walking in. The home invaders’ victims become the innocent, unsuspecting, unprepared homeowners.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A Home Invasion?

- Entry is forced and/or unauthorized (except in some drug-related robberies).
- The offender seeks confrontation - the intent is to rob.
- The confrontation occurs inside a dwelling.
- The offender uses violence and/or the threat of violence.
- The offender demands, and takes, money and/or property.
- Home invasion robbers usually rob in groups, which sometimes are well- organized and specialize in home invasions.
- Weapon use is common by offenders (e.g., firearms, knives, striking instruments).
- The greatest violence usually occurs during the initial 60 seconds of the confrontation and home invaders often come prepared with handcuffs, rope, duct tape and firearms.
- Home invaders will try to increase their escape time by disabling the phones and sometimes will leave their victims bound or incapacitated.

The Home Invasion section of this brochure was developed with information from: FBI.gov • University of Albany, State University of New York: Home Invasion Robbery Guide 70: PopCenter.org • CrimeDoctor.com • "Burglar Alarms and the Choice Behavior of Burglars: A Suburban Phenomenon, A.J. Buck and S. Hakim, Temple University, 1993" • U.S. National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health: NCBJ.nlm.nih.gov • County of Nassau, NY: NassauCountyNY.gov • City of Topeka, KS: Topeka.org • City of Torrington, CT: TorringtonCT.org • Hawaii County Police: HawaiiPolice.com • Pennsylvania State Police: Portal.State.PA.us

Home Invasion

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Protect Yourself

Doors, Windows, Garages – Always Keep them Locked

All exterior doors should be solid-core with heavy-duty deadbolt locks and hardware. Peepholes should be installed and utilized prior to opening the door to anyone. Or, install a wide-angle door viewer that permits you to look outside before opening the door. Use a secondary blocking device on all sliding glass doors. Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws on windows.

Answer the Door with Caution

When there is someone at your door, call out, "I'll get it!" This gives the impression that you are not alone in the house. Speak to all visitors through the locked door. Demand identification from anyone you do not know. Verify it by calling that place of business or the person's employer. Do not ask the person for the phone number; they may have an accomplice answering the phone. Do not open the door until you are satisfied that it is safe to do so. If you cannot verify their identity, keep the door closed and locked. Press the emergency button on your monitored security system or call 9-1-1 if you feel uncomfortable with the situation.

Eliminate Vulnerabilities

Use motion sensor lights near or around key entry points. Trim shrubs to a height of three feet and tree canopies up to a height of eight feet. Keep ladders out of sight.

Have an Escape Plan

Train family members on where to go and what to say. This plan should include your children. If someone can escape, the invaders will have lost the advantage of privacy and time. Some homeowners build "safe rooms" to allow them to retreat or escape the violence while giving them valuable time to call the police.

Stay Calm

Never stop thinking if you are held captive. Keep a cool head and take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself. Do not scream, yell out, cry or attempt any violent confrontation. Do exactly as you are told, nothing more and nothing less. Remember, your life is more valuable than your property. Never follow the intruder from the scene.

BE ALERT TO THE WAYS THAT A Home Invasion Can Start

Home invasion robbers may trick you into opening your door by:

- Simply ringing the doorbell
- Knocking at the door
- Pretending to deliver a package or flowers
- Creating attention-getting noises outside your door
- Lying about a car accident and saying they need help

While the front door is a common point of entry, back doors and windows are also used.

Take Action....

INSTALL A MONITORED SECURITY SYSTEM

- A Temple University study found that residences without alarm systems are approximately three times more likely to be burglarized than residences with alarm systems. Yard signs and window stickers indicate the presence of a security system and help to serve as a deterrent to would-be intruders.
- An APS security system can be armed while you are enjoying activities within your home. When an armed perimeter door or window is opened, the system will send a signal to the monitoring center that an opening has occurred.
- APS can notify the police to be dispatched to your home without you having to call 911.
- Worried about an elderly person at home alone? Use your Internet-connected smartphone, tablet or computer to arm APS's interactive security system and rest assured your loved one has APS's Central Station Monitoring system, even when you can't be there.
- Keep APS's pendant or keyfob panic button handy when you are in your home. Pressing it will send a silent emergency signal to the monitoring center and APS can notify authorities for help.



IS IT POSSIBLE TO Prevent Home Fires?

Fire safety education and awareness are the first steps to help save lives. Help make your community a safer place by getting involved... ask neighbors if they have smoke alarms, practice evacuation plans and encourage others to do the same.

Unfortunately, all homes are vulnerable to fire; there are ways, however, to lessen the threat. Every home should feature working smoke alarms. 65% of house fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are extremely easy to install and can double your chance of survival. It is important to test smoke alarms monthly and replace the battery as needed. Besides smoke alarms, it is critical to prepare a response to a disaster like a home fire. People with a home fire evacuation plan can maximize the minutes they have to get out.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT Home Fires?

Fires happen regardless of your geographic location or personal background. Home fires cause devastation through property damage, injury and death. Each year, more than 3,400 Americans die as a result of fire. More than 2,500 of these deaths occur in home fires.

Don't become a statistic. Help to prevent a home fire from causing chaos in your life by becoming aware of household hazards, preparing an evacuation plan and eliminating fire risks in and around your home. Use this informative booklet from APS to learn more about how home fires start, how to create an evacuation plan and safety checklist, what to do if you are caught in a home fire, how to use a fire extinguisher and what to do after a home fire.

The Fire Safety section of this brochure was developed with information from:
National Fire Protection Association: NFPA.org • Federal Emergency Management Security: FEMA.gov
• American Red Cross: RedCross.org • U.S. Fire Administration; Federal Emergency Management Security:
USFA.FEMA.gov • Ready Campaign; Federal Emergency Management Security: Ready.gov

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE AND How Quickly Can a Fire Spread?

- Although fire starts off bright, it quickly produces black smoke and darkness and therefore, fire can actually be pitch black
- It only takes a minute for thick, black smoke to fill a house
- A small flame can turn into a major fire in less than 30 seconds
- In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening
- The heat is extremely dangerous and inhaling the hot air will scorch your lungs
- The heat is so intense it can melt your clothes and skin
- The smoke and toxic gasses kill more people than flames

HOME FIRE Quick Facts

- 80% of Americans don't realize that home fires are the single most common disaster across the nation and only 26% of families have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan
- Each year, more than 12,600 are injured from home fires
- Nationally, the number of home fires is on the rise
- Children under the age of 5 and adults over 65 are more than twice more likely to die in a home fire than the rest of the US population
- High rise fires cause more injuries and damage than all other structural fires
- Each year, over 200 people die from carbon monoxide produced fuel burning appliances in the home
- Together, sprinklers and smoke alarms cut your risk of dying in a home fire by 82% in relation to having neither



Top 8 Causes OF HOUSE FIRES

1. Cooking Equipment

Cooking is the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injury. Overall, cooking accounted for two of every five reported home fires and reported home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading contributing factor in these fires and injuries.

2. Heating Equipment

Heating is responsible for many of the home fires that are reported during the months of December, January and February.

3. Cigarette Smoking

Smoking is the leading cause of civilian fire deaths. Every year, almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials.

4. Electrical & Inadequate Wiring

Electrical failure or malfunction is a leading cause of home fires. Don't overload electrical outlets. Protective exterior wires carry a hot current which can catch fire when the wire is frayed. Be aware of your outlets, wiring and electric.

5. Candles

Most home candle fires start in the bedroom. Candle fires start when a candle lights a burnable item, such as a mattress or bedding. The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day and Christmas Eve.

6. Children Playing with Fire

Younger children are more likely to start fires in the home, while older children tend to start fires outdoors. Keep lighters, matches and heat sources away from children.

7. Christmas Trees and Holiday Decorations

A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes fires. Holiday lights and other decorations with line voltage create home fires

8. Flammable Liquids

Combustible liquids can catch fire and burn easily at normal temperatures. Many common products and fuels are combustible.

Fire Safety Checklist

In preparation for the unthinkable, find and remove fire hazards from your home. Take the necessary steps now. They can help to save your life!

- ☐ Check electrical appliances for loose or frayed wires.
- ☐ Check outlets. They should never be overloaded with plugs.
- ☐ Have lamps and nightlights stand alone. They should not touch any fabric.
- ☐ Use the correct bulb wattage for your light fixtures.
- ☐ Turn off electrical blankets and appliances when not in use.
- ☐ Supervise children in the kitchen and around cooking equipment.
- ☐ Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- ☐ Have your furnace or heating system inspected annually.

Space Heaters:

- ☐ Keep out of walk ways.
- ☐ Keep away from children and pets.
- ☐ Place at a safe distance from your bed, fabrics and flammable items.
- ☐ Unplug when not in use.

In The Kitchen:

- ☐ Never leave kitchen equipment unattended when in use.
- ☐ Turn off and unplug appliances.
- ☐ Repair or replace appliances that spark, smell or easily overheat.
- ☐ Do not wear loose clothing when cooking.
- ☐ Do not cook when you are sleepy or drowsy. Cooking requires attention.

Home Escape:

- ☐ Practice your fire escape plan.
- ☐ Have two ways out of each room.
- ☐ Once you're out of the house, stay out.
- ☐ Know where to meet after you escape.





USING A Fire Extinguisher

Only use a fire extinguisher if: the fire is contained to a small area, the fire is not growing, if the room is not filled with smoke, everyone has exited the building and the fire department has been called.

When operating a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS.

- P** – Pull the pin and hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you.
- A** – Aim low. Point the extinguisher toward the base of the fire.
- S** – Squeeze the lever slowly.
- S** – Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.



IMPORTANT

Draw your floor plan and your primary escape route.

Use the grids below to draw a floor plan of your home. Be sure to mark the primary escape route. Also, mark the secondary escape route.

Be sure to go over this with your family often.



IMPORTANT

Fill out this form with your family today

Meeting Place

Shortest Emergency Escape Routes

1 - Through House
2 - Through Window

_____ 's bedroom	1. _____
	2. _____
_____ 's bedroom	1. _____
	2. _____
_____ 's bedroom	1. _____
	2. _____
_____ room	1. _____
	2. _____
_____ room	1. _____
	2. _____
_____ room	1. _____
	2. _____
_____	1. _____
	2. _____
_____	1. _____
	2. _____

Instructions

Prepare your family by working together on a fire escape plan. Use this plan to practice your fire evacuation route at least twice a year. Keep this plan displayed in a place where the whole family has access to it, can study it and review it.



MY HOME IS ON FIRE! What Do I Do?

If a fire occurs while you are in the house, don't waste any time. Get out as soon as you can. Follow your escape plan and be aware of the heat and smoke around you. The more quickly you can react, the more chance you have of escaping safely. When in a house fire, protect yourself from inhaling smoke. Smoke inhalation causes you to become disoriented or even unconscious. Cover your face when going through a room heavily filled with smoke.

- **Follow your escape plan!** When the smoke alarms sound, get out; you only have seconds to escape safely! Smoke is toxic and rises, so get low and crawl to your exit.
- If your first exit is blocked by smoke or if the doorknob is too hot, leave it and find your way to the second exit. If you open a door, open it slowly. Be ready to shut a door quickly in case heavy smoke is present on the other side.
- If a person or a pet is inside and needs assistance, **get out first**, and then call 9-1-1 and tell the operator where the person or pet is located.
- If you cannot **escape the fire**, close the door and cover the vents in the room and door cracks with wet cloth or tape in an attempt to keep the smoke out. Call 9-1-1 and tell them where you are. Signal for help through the window with a flashlight or light colored clothing.

ABOUT HOME FIRE Talk to Your Children

Teach your kids about risks involved with lighters, matches, candles, fireworks and cigarettes. Make them aware that playing with these items is dangerous. Smoke inhalation can cause you to become disoriented or even unconscious.

Keep matches, lighters and other ignitable substances away from your children. Teach children to tell an adult if they find any of these dangerous materials.

Talk to your kids about what to do if a fire occurs. Be sure that they understand that firefighters are part of the community; they are "safe strangers" who will help them. Educate your kids on fire awareness and preparation so that they feel confident about what to do in the worst case scenario.



Fire Evacuation Plan

Fires are unpredictable which is why having an evacuation plan is so important. Get the whole family involved in fire safety preparations. Discuss with your children what to do in a fire emergency and practice your evacuation plan at least twice a year.

When you test your fire evacuation plan, try it in daylight and at night. You should even practice feeling your way out of the house by crawling with your eyes closed. Explain to your children that they should never hide from firefighters.

Be prepared! Ask yourself: Does everyone know what the smoke or fire alarm signal sounds like? Are there two ways out of every room? Are escape paths clear? Are doors and windows easy to open? Where will you meet outside? Think of everything ahead of time so if an emergency happens you can get out of the house immediately. Don't risk your life by going back into the house.

THE NEXT STEPS After A Fire

Recovering from a home fire is physically and emotionally challenging. Being injured, losing property and valuables, or even losing loved ones can be the all real-life results of a home fire. Recovering can be exhausting. Look to your community for support and be cautious when you return home. Check with the fire department to see if and when your residence is safe to enter.

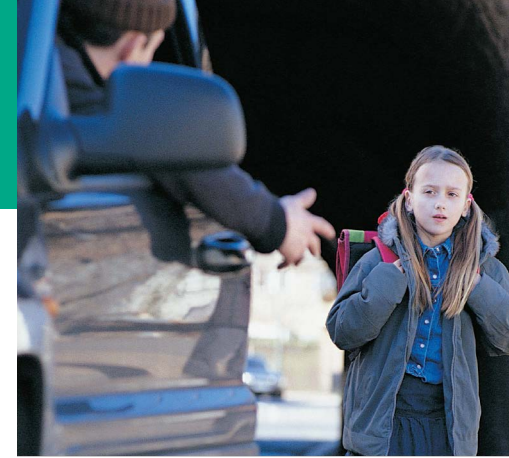
- Contact your local disaster relief group.
- Contact your insurance company, landlord or mortgage company, utility and security providers.
- The fire department will tell you if your utilities are safe to use. If not, the firefighters will turn them off.
- Try to find valuables like documents and records. Conduct an inventory of damaged items and property.
- If you have to vacate your home, let the police department know.
- Let your family and friends know you're safe!



Take Action....

INSTALL A MONITORED SECURITY AND FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

- More fire related deaths occur between 11pm – 7am, when the majority of people are asleep.
- Monitored fire detection systems allow firefighters to be alerted, even if you are out of the house or fast asleep.
- APS installs smoke alarms and heat detectors that are always monitored, whether your security system is armed or not.
- Monitored Heat Detectors: In areas where a smoke detector may not be practical – such as a furnace room, kitchen or laundry room – these devices detect, within their range, high levels of ambient heat. They can offer a warning to a possible fire and send a signal to the Guardian 24-hour monitoring center who can notify firefighters.
- Monitored Photoelectric Smoke Detectors: These are particularly effective for identifying within their range of detection, abnormally high levels of heat associated with even small smoldering fires before they get out of control. As part of a APS monitored fire detection system, they can help reduce damage from a fire.



EDUCATING CHILDREN ON Personal Safety

It is our responsibility to teach children how to help protect themselves and to handle dangerous, scary or uncomfortable situations. Help our children understand how to make good choices, always keeping safety in mind.

Life is full of circumstances that may combine at any given time to create risk. Children are a great target in such situations because they are more approachable, innocent and less experienced in personal safety behaviors. Their reactions often determine outcomes. Educate your children about good practices for staying safe, no matter the situation and its unpredictability. Safety should be every family's number one priority.

No-Go-Yell-Tell is a self-defense technique in case children are confronted by strangers who might be threatening or hurtful. If in a dangerous situation, children should say “no”, run away from the scene, yell as loud as they can and tell a trusted adult about what happened as soon as possible. Empowering children with this technique can help them successfully get away from danger including abduction. Parents, it's important to review this lesson with your children periodically. Dangerous situations include:

- Stranger asks child for help with directions
- Stranger asks child for help with finding a lost pet
- Stranger asks child if they'd like to come inside for food
- Stranger claims that he or she was sent by the parents to pick up child
- Stranger follows a child suspiciously

SMART SAFETY TIPS FOR Parents to Remember

- Get to know your neighbors and your neighborhood. Show your children the best places to play safely and areas to avoid.
- Know where your children are at all times! Stay connected with them.
- Encourage kids to play in groups and never to go anywhere alone.
- Explain who “good” strangers are and how they can help in dangerous situations. Good strangers are reliable people who you can trust such as a police officer, firefighter, teacher and librarian.
- Trust your children's instincts. Reassure them that you're there to listen and to believe them.
- Teach your children what to do in an emergency and how to call 911.

The Child Safety section of this brochure was developed with information from: National Crime Prevention Council: NCPC.org • National Criminal Justice Reference Service: NCJRS.gov • U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: OJJDP.gov • KeepYourChildSafe.org • StopBullying.gov • SafeKidsWorldwide.org • SafeKids.org

Child Safety

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN



WHAT ARE THE RISKS To Your Child?

In The Home

Staying Home Alone. For moments when children need to stay home alone, such as after school and until parents come home from work, instruct your children to call, email or text you when they get home. Always lock the door and never open the door to strangers. If your home has a 24-hour monitored home security system from APS, teach them how to operate the system.

Poison Prevention. Keep medicines and cleaning solutions in the original packaging and store in a secure place where children can't see or reach them. Refrain from storing these items under the kitchen or bathroom sink as kids are often eye level with these items.

Fire Safety. Install monitored smoke alarms and heat detectors. Second, develop a fire escape plan with the whole family. Identify points in your home where children can exit. To get your free fire escape planner, request a APS Protection Services Fire Safety brochure.

In The Neighborhood

Playing Outside. Never leave children unattended outside and teach them to stay away from the street and moving cars. If a ball or toy rolls into the street and if kids have to cross the street, they should look both ways first or get an adult to help.

At School

Bullying. Recognize the signs if your child is being bullied, bullying others, or witnessing bullying. Talk to your children if they are displaying any sort of behavioral or emotional changes. Cyberbullying is also a growing concern for parents. Targeting another person online or via use of electronic technology, commonly called cyberbullying, is also a growing concern for parents.

Traveling. To and From School. Map a safe way for your children to walk to school or to the bus stop and point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots and parks where there aren't many people present. Teach them traffic rules and encourage them to go with a sibling or a friend.



Take Action....

INSTALL MONITORED HOME SECURITY WITH A SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM

- A child is reported missing every 41 seconds in the United States. That's more than 2,100 children a day.
- A 24-hour monitored home security system can help protect your home and family. In case of an emergency, APS will initiate a response in an average of 30 seconds upon receiving your system's alarm signal and can direct authorities to your premises.
- Worried about your children being at home alone? With APS's security camera system, you can use your Internet-connected smartphone, tablet or PC to check-in with the kids and perform live look-ins to see what's going on at home while you're away.
- Focus our security cameras on specific locations such as the front door, nursery and other areas of interest. Available for indoor and outdoor use, security cameras give you an extra boost of peace of mind.
- Arm and disarm your system, assign user codes and view live or recorded video clips.

SMART SAFETY TIPS FOR Children to Learn

- I will always check with my parents first.
- I will know my full name, my parents' name, home phone number and address.
- I will not play or go to other places by myself. I'll take a friend.
- I will trust my feelings – if something feels wrong, it is wrong.
- I will try to remove myself from a situation where someone makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will look for "good" strangers to help me in dangerous situations. More information under Smart Safety Tips for Parents.
- I will not talk to, accept gifts, or accept rides from people I do not know without my parent's permission.
- I will always lock the doors in my home and in the car. I know not to admit that I am home alone.
- I will know to dial 911 in case of an emergency.



BROWSE, SHARE, LIKE:

Cyber Safety Rules

The Internet is a routine part of everyday life; it is extremely accessible and uniquely portable. With all of the convenience and educational benefits, it's easy to forget the dangers that exist in cyberspace.

Get knowledgeable about these threats and consider advice on how to stay safe online. From inappropriate content to sexual predators, your computer, smartphone and tablet offer potentially harmful material. These are some of the reasons to educate children and seniors about cyber safety, especially if you fear they are being taken advantage of. The Internet is full of great resources, but be cautious and avoid anything suspicious.

TYPES OF DANGERS IN Cyberspace

Cyberbullying: When someone, usually a child or young adult, is being harassed online.

Oversharing: Frequently posting detailed personal information, such as vacation plans and your current location, thus making it easier for criminals to target your home.

Sexual Predators: Strangers seeking sexual contact; children are easily targeted.

Damaged Reputation: Some types of videos, photos and written posts can damage your own or someone else's reputation. Think before you post online.

Identity Theft: Social networking sites can help an identity thief access your personal information and photos. If you're not careful, you could be harmed legally and financially.

MORE TIPS FOR Logging On

- Use unique passwords across websites – make them long, strong and difficult to guess.
- Make sure your computer antivirus software is installed and up to date.
- Activate all available privacy settings when using social media sites and chat rooms.
- Always sign out of your accounts, especially when using public computers.
- Only open attachments and links from known senders.
- Finally, if it looks too good to be true... it probably is!

The Cyber Safety section of this brochure was developed with information from: Social Media Today: SocialMediaToday.com • Federal Trade Commission Consumer Information: Consumer.FTC.gov • National Children's Advocacy Center: NationalCAC.org • DoSomething.Org • KeepYourChildSafe.org • KidsHealth.org • OnlineOnGuard.gov • Ted.com • American Red Cross, RedCross.org



TIPS TO REMEMBER

When You Are...

Shopping Online

Look for "https" in the web address and a "lock" icon on the browser when purchasing items online. These signs prove that the website is secure.

Using Public Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi hotspots in coffee shops, airports, hotels and other public places are convenient, but often not secure. You should send personal or financial information only to sites that are fully encrypted.

Check Email

Beware of "phishing" emails that pretend to be trustworthy but are actually attempting to access your stored information. Do not open or respond to them. Log in regularly to monitor any unusual activity.

Chatting With Others

Dating websites and chat rooms are places where people can communicate online. Help protect your identity and privacy by using a username that doesn't reveal too much information. Never send money to someone you met online and keep in mind that people are not always who they say they are.

OVERSHARING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

A Target for Criminals

Oversharing online can put yourself, others and your home at risk. Burglars are now targeting victims based on what they see shared through social networking sites. Criminals need only access your online profile to get an idea of where you live and use Google Street View to start casing your home. Approximately 78 percent of burglars admit to using Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare and Google Street View to select victim's homes. A few examples of common status updates, tweets and photos that leave you and the things you love vulnerable to crime without realizing:

- The Countdown - "Spring Break! Leaving for Mexico in five days!"
- Travel and Holiday Plans - "Visiting the in-laws in South Carolina for Thanksgiving."
- Check-Ins - "It's Sunday! At the stadium all day cheering on my favorite team with my friend!"
- Home Remodel and/or Damage - "Staying at my favorite downtown hotel while our kitchen is being renovated."



Take Action....

INSTALL A MONITORED SECURITY SYSTEM

- Cybercrime may lead to criminals targeting your home; one in five online adults report being a victim of cybercrime.
- 54 percent of burglars say that posting status and whereabouts on social media was their victim's biggest mistake.
- A 24-hour monitored home security system can help protect your home and family. Upon receiving your system's emergency signal, APS will initiate a response in an average of 30 seconds and can direct police, firefighters or EMS teams to your premises.
- Instantly arm and disarm your system and assign specific user codes as needed, anytime, anywhere you have an Internet connection. Delete the user code whenever you desire.
- Whether you are at home or miles away, your premises can be monitored by APS. Our 24/7 U.L.-certified, CSAA Five Diamond monitoring station was named 2015 Central Station of the Year, an award recognizing excellence and professionalism in monitoring.



Know Your Home

WHAT'S INSIDE AND OUT

Each day, millions of consumers rely on an array of formulated products to care for their home environment. Yet, despite the broad use of these products, consumers are often unsure about how to properly and safely use, store, and dispose of them. Improper handling can lead to unintentional or accidental poisonings.

This Poison Prevention information utilizes research and outreach techniques that are designed to identify challenges and prevent the unintentional poisoning of small children. In case of emergency, call the American Association of Poison Control Centers at 1-800-222-1222.

POISON PREVENTION TIPS

More than two million poisonings are reported each year to the 57 poison control centers across the country. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than six years old. Tips to Prevent Poisonings

- Read label directions for proper storage and disposal instructions.
- Store products out of reach and out of sight from children.
- Keep products in their original containers, with the label so products can be easily identified and label directions can be read.
- Talk with your children about what is safe to taste and what is not safe to taste. For example, colored liquids may look like juice, so teach your children to ask an adult before they try something.

Which Can I Taste?

POISON PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

Which Can I Taste game that asks kids to choose between photos of two similar looking items for which one is safe to taste. Examples include: difference between glass cleaner and blue Gatorade; Mountain Dew and yellow cleaning supplies; candy and vitamins. The idea is that the pictures will look so similar some children may guess the "safe to taste" item wrong, teaching that it's important to ask an adult before tasting and to keep items in their original containers.

Safe to Taste Collages activity allows children to use magazines and newspapers to select photos for a collage that illustrate what is safe to taste on one side and what is not safe to taste on the other.



Disease Prevention

HANDWASHING – YOUR FIRST DEFENSE

Public Health is best promoted by preventing disease. Cleanliness promotes good health. Yet each year, because of a simple lack of knowledge, people of all ages unwillingly come in contact with disease causing pathogens, and risk illness as a result. They can also transmit germs to loved ones in their homes, colleagues at work and school, and to others in the community. This continuing cycle of disease transmission presents a challenge to the good health of adults and children throughout the United States and around the world.

Promote healthy handwashing techniques and the proper use of products in order to improve the lives of children nationwide. Our Disease Prevention program was developed to educate on research-based findings that focus on preventing disease transmission within the home and in community settings. Our focus is to target families, children, and schools in order to provide the information necessary to break the cycle of disease transmission. Learn more about disease prevention:

PLANTS AND WILD MUSHROOMS

Some indoor and outdoor plants can pose a hazard to curious children. Berries and wild mushrooms pose the greatest outdoor hazards to curious children. Philodendron and Dieffenbachia (Dumbcane) are indoor plants that can cause pain and swelling in children and pets who nibble on them. Adults are poisoned by eating plants and mushrooms they have mistaken for edible species.

Teach young children to ask before putting things into their mouths. Never eat wild mushrooms unless they have been identified by an expert. Learn the correct botanical names of your house plants, garden plants and trees. Contact your poison center for a list of poisonous and non-poisonous plants common to your area of the country.

INHALANTS AND CHEMICALS

There are more than a 1,400 products that are potentially dangerous when inhaled, such as typewriter correction fluid, air conditioning coolant, gasoline, propane, felt tip markers, spray paint, air freshener, butane, cooking spray, paint, and glue. Most are common products that can be found in the home, garage, office, school, or as close as the local convenience store. The best advice for consumers is to read the labels before using a product to ensure the proper method is observed. It is also recommended that parents discuss the product labels with their children at age-appropriate times.

RESOURCES

In case of a poison emergency, call 1-800-222-1222
Visit the Poison Prevention Week Council Facebook page and website. Find your local Poison Center at www.aapcc.org



Ten Tips

FIREARM SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

“Nearly all firearm accidents in the home can be prevented when gun owners take simple precautions, and proper storage is the number one way to help prevent accidents” said Steve Sanetti, NSSF president and CEO. “Anyone who is going to own a firearm should respect it and secure it when not in use to help prevent firearm accidents and misuse.”

NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION (NSSF) TIPS INCLUDE:

- Always keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction. A “safe direction” means that the gun is pointed so that even if an accidental discharge occurred, it would not result in injury.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until you actually intend to shoot. When handling a gun, rest your finger outside the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Don't touch the trigger until you are actually ready to fire.
- Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use. Whenever you pick up a gun, such as when removing it from or returning it to storage, remember to point it in a safe direction and make sure it is unloaded.
- Be sure you know how your firearm operates: read the manual on your firearm, know how to safely open and close the action of the firearm and know how to safely remove any ammunition from the firearm and its magazine.
- Store your firearms in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case when not in use, ensuring they are in a location inaccessible by children and cannot be handled by anyone without your permission.
- Store your ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms.
- Use a gun locking device that renders the firearm inoperable when not in use. A gun lock should be used as an additional safety precaution and not as a substitute for secure storage.
- Make sure young people in your home are aware of and understand the safety guidelines concerning firearms. Have them sign the Project ChildSafe Pledge for young people—a reminder that if they find an unattended firearm in their home or a neighbor's to not touch it, and tell an adult.
- Always unload, clean and place your firearms in their secure storage location immediately after returning from a hunting trip or a day at the range.
- Educate everyone in your family about firearms safety. Visit the Project ChildSafe website for safety information and to find out where to get a free firearm safety kit in your area.



The Poison Prevention section of this brochure was developed with information from: www.projectchildsafe.org/news/ten-tips-firearm-safety-your-home • © 2016 Project ChildSafe, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 11 Mile Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470. Project ChildSafe® is a program of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The Own It? Respect It. Secure It.® initiative is a safety message campaign of Project ChildSafe®.



For more information on home security call: 504.455.5277

While providing home and business security systems to Greater New Orleans, Northshore, and Mississippi Gulf Coast, APS partners with communities by offering this free educational safety brochures.



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