

*For more information  
regarding joining the  
Menomonee Falls  
Fire Department*

*or*

*programs offered by the  
Menomonee Falls  
Fire Department  
Call 532-8823*

**MENOMONEE FALLS  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

W140 N7801 Lilly Rd  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Phone: 262-532-8823  
E-mail: [fire@menomonee-falls.org](mailto:fire@menomonee-falls.org)  
[www.menomonee-falls.org/fire](http://www.menomonee-falls.org/fire)

**MENOMONEE  
FALLS FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

**Halloween  
and Fall  
Safety Tips**



---

**MENOMONEE FALLS  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

# Menomonee Falls Safety Tips



## Smoke Detectors

Install at least one smoke alarm on every floor of your home (including the basement) and outside each sleeping area. If you sleep with the door closed, NFPA recommends installing smoke alarms inside the room.

Mount the smoke alarms on ceilings or high on walls – remember, smoke rises. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches, but not more than 12 inches away from the ceiling. On vaulted ceilings, be sure to mount the alarm at the highest point of the ceiling.

**Consult the smoke alarm manufacturer's instructions for detailed installation information.**

Don't install smoke alarms near windows, outside doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.

Don't paint your smoke alarms; paint or other decorations could keep them from working when you most need it.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month by using the alarm's "test button" or an approved smoke substitute.

Vacuum your smoke detector once a month.

Change your batteries twice a year, on the same day you change your clock from daylight savings to standard in fall and standard to daylight savings in spring; or replace batteries if your smoke detector chirps.

Replace your smoke detector once every 10 years.

Make sure everyone can clearly hear and recognize the sound of all smoke alarms at all times.

People who have hearing impairments should have smoke alarms with strobe lights installed to alert them to a fire.

Alarms that are hard-wired to the home's electrical system should be installed by a qualified electrician.

## Halloween Safety

Purchase only costumes, wigs and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant. When creating a costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame. Avoid billowing or long trailing features.

Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, heaters, etc.

Use extreme caution when decorating with candles, and supervise children at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside Jack-O-Lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches and be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from all combustible items. Pumpkins can also be illuminated with small, inexpensive flashlights.

Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, ensuring nothing blocks escape routes.

Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.

Instruct children to stay away from open flames or other heat sources. Be sure children know how to **stop, drop and roll** in the event their clothing catches fire. (Stop immediately, drop to the ground, covering your face with your hands, and roll over and over to extinguish flames.)

Instruct children who are attending parties at others' homes to locate the exits and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting or as part of their costume.

Do not allow children to eat candy until it has been checked by an adult. Many local hospitals will X-ray candy for free.

Make sure young children Trick or Treat with an adult, older children should Trick or Treat in groups.

Teach children basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars, going into homes or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.

Plan a safe route, and set a time for children to be home. Let children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well lit areas.

Children should only stop at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult.



## Furnace Safety

**Keep the area around the furnace clean and uncluttered.** Never use the area around your furnace for storage or drying clothes.

**Clean or change furnace filters regularly.** Replace disposable filters. Wash, brush or vacuum permanent filters.

**Check the furnace exhaust vent & air intake.** Clear obstructions such as snow, leaves or animal nests from the vent & intake pipes. Most mobile home furnaces draw combustion air from beneath the home. To allow air to pass freely beneath the home, the skirting should have four to six vents.

**Inspect the blower motor with the power off.** Vacuum any accumulated dirt. If the owner's manual calls for it, oil the motor. Inspect the V-belt and pulleys for wear. Tighten the belt if it moves more than an inch when you push it.

Be sure the **thermostat on your furnace is in good working condition** by keeping it clean. Have it checked periodically by a heating professional.

**Check the flue assembly** (when cool) for alignment and rigidity. The flue should run in a straight line from the top of the furnace through the ceiling. Be sure the flue is attached to the furnace collar. Check for loose wiring near the flue. If you find any, move it and secure it well away from the flue pipe.

**Keep the flue pipe free of excessive deposits of carbon.** Have your furnace maintenance person check and clean the flue pipe, fuel lines, safety controls and burner before each heating season.

## Fireplace Safety



**Clear the area around the fireplace and chimney.** Debris too close to the fireplace could cause a fire. Check the flue for obstructions like birds' nests, and trim any overhanging branches or large trees near the chimney.

**Have your fireplace inspected annually.** A dirty fireplace can cause chimney fires and inhibit proper venting of smoke up the flue.

**Always use a fireplace screen & never overload the fireplace** with too many logs. Don't use the fireplace as an incinerator. Never burn garbage, Christmas trees, or piles of paper.

**Keep a fire extinguisher on hand** and make sure that all family members know how to operate it.

**Never leave fire unattended.** Be sure the fire is extinguished before you go to bed.

**Dispose of ashes properly.** Store ashes/charcoal in a covered metal container **at least** ten feet away from the house. Let them sit for a week or more before disposing of ashes/charcoal in the garbage. Never store hot ashes in a container in or near your home/garage.

