

*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**

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**MENOMONEE
FALLS FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

**Winter and
Holiday Season
Safety Tips**



**MENOMONEE FALLS
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Menomonee Falls Safety Tips

Smoke Alarms



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.

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 they're needed most.

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

Vacuum your smoke alarms once a month.

Change your batteries twice a year, on the same day you change your clocks for Daylight Savings; and replace batteries if smoke alarm chirps.

Replace your smoke alarms 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.

Cold Weather Safety

Children are smaller than adults and lose body heat more rapidly and will suffer cold-related injuries sooner than adults. Also remember that when children are playing outside on a cold day they may not pay any attention to how cold they are.

Tips for preventing Cold Weather injuries:

*Dress properly for the weather. Several layers of thick, loose-fitting clothing allows warm air to become trapped between the layers. It also allows for layers to be removed if you become too warm. Clothes should be made of loosely-woven cotton or wool fabrics.

*Heat is lost most rapidly from the head and neck. Your cheeks, ears and nose are most apt to get frostbite, so be sure to wear clothes that protect these parts of your body. Frostbite can occur when temperatures are below freezing. Wind and humidity can shorten the time it takes for frostbite to occur.

*When you are outside on a cold day, you should keep moving around. Do not sit or stand in one place for very long. Sit on blankets or a portable seat rather than on cold pavement or concrete.

*Drink warm, caffeine-free, non-alcoholic fluids to keep from becoming dehydrated.

*Avoid becoming wet when outside on cold days (wet clothes lose 90% of their insulating value). If you do get wet, change your clothes immediately.

*If your fingers or toes start to sting, that's your body's way of telling you "I'm cold! Bring me inside so I can warm up, please!"

Holiday Safety Tips

*Be sure to select a fresh Christmas tree, or fresh holiday greens; needles should be green and hard to pull off of the branch, the trunk should be sticky to the touch.

*Do not place tree near heat source, heat will dry out the tree.

*Keep tree well watered.

*Dispose of tree at community recycle center or community pick-up service, do not burn tree or other greens in a fireplace.

*Maintain lights: check for frayed wires, bare spots, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking.

*Use only lighting tested by an approved testing laboratory.

*Do not overload electrical outlets – do not link more than 3 light strands, periodically check wires, they should not be warm to the touch.

*Do not run extension cords under rugs.

*If using extension cords outside, make sure the cord is rated for outdoors.

*Don't use staples or nails to attach extension cords to a baseboard or to any other surface.

*Use non-flammable decorations.

*Make sure artificial trees are flame retardant.

*Do not use lit candles on a tree

*Make sure decorative household candles are in a stable holder and display them where they can not be easily knocked down



*Do not leave the house with candles lit.

*To avoid eye and skin irritation, wear gloves when decorating with spun glass or "angel hair."

*To avoid lung irritation, follow container directions carefully while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

*Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. Wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely, resulting in a flash fire.

*Place a screen around your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby flammable materials.