

Bergheim VFD - Safety Advice

After 10 years of experience being your fire department, here are some top safety tips that we've learned that may help you avoid or lessen the impact of an emergency.

- #1 Call **911** in any emergency - fire, accident, medical, car accident, etc. More than half our calls are non-fire related. Have your house number clearly visible so first responders can find you easily and quickly.
- #2 Have working **smoke detectors** in your home. Change the batteries and test them at least twice a year. Replace smoke detectors every 10 years. Install carbon monoxide detectors about five feet off the floor near sleeping areas.
- #3 Have an **evacuation plan** so all family members know what do to in a fire. Have at least two ways of escaping rooms and practice yearly. Close doors in each room after escaping to delay the spread of the fire. Cover your mouth with a cloth to avoid inhaling smoke and gases. Designate a safe meeting place outside the house. Learn to stop, drop, and roll if clothes catch fire.
- #4 Have at least two 'ABC' **fire extinguishers** in your home that are easy for family members to find. One should be near the kitchen; there should also be one per floor.
- #5 Maintain a 30 foot **defensive zone** around your home to prevent wildfire encroachment. Keep grasses mowed. Trim trees to keep limbs at least six feet above the ground. Move flammable material away from walls - flammable plants (cedar), firewood piles, dead vegetation, etc.
- #6 Help first responders: If someone in your home has a **medical condition**, put a card on the front door indicating the condition and where to find medical instructions.
- #7 Never drive into flooded roadways - **turn around, don't drown!**
- #8 Keep your **attention on driving** at all times - no texting, reaching for dropped objects, disciplining fighting children, etc. Drive defensively - be aware what other drivers may do. Keep a two second cushion between you and the car in front of you; keep your eyes moving to notice both sides of the road. Slow down and be particularly careful on wet roads.
- #9 **Prevent falls.** Have a helper nearby if you go up on a ladder or climb up on a roof. Make sure ladders have a firm foundation and use them properly. If prone to falling, wear a medical alert device that can call for help.
- #10 **Support Bergheim VFD.** Your donations help ensure a faster response to emergencies.