General Fire Safety

- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area. For maximum protection, place an alarm in each bedroom.

- Check the batteries in your smoke alarm monthly and replace as necessary. Better yet, replace your alarms with long-life, lithium battery-powered alarms. These alarms have a hush feature to silence nuisance alarms caused by cooking smoke or shower steam.

- Draw a fire escape plan using a floor plan of your home including all doors and windows. Determine at least two exits from every room. Designate a meeting place outside the house where everyone can gather after exiting. Practice the plan with your children, preferably at night.

- In case of an actual fire, get everyone out immediately and call 9-1-1 from a neighbor’s phone.

- Instruct small children about the dangers of playing with lighters, matches, and/or any other type of fire. Teach your child how to call for help in emergencies. Reward an understanding of safety regarding fire.

- Know how to extinguish small fires on the kitchen stove. (Simply sliding a lid over a skillet of burning grease often will extinguish a pan fire.)
Portable Extinguishers
A fire extinguisher is basically a storage container for agents that put out fires. Common agents are dry chemicals and water. Portable fire extinguishers are designed to put out small fires, not large ones.

Extinguisher Classifications
The letters on the label of an extinguisher indicate what type of fire to use it on (see below). Make sure to use the right extinguisher for the type of fire.

Ordinary Combustibles
Cloth, Paper, Plastics, Rubber, Wood

Flammable Liquids
Gasoline, Grease, Lacquers, Oil, Paint

Electrical Equipment
Energized Electrical Equipment, Fuse Boxes, Wiring

Combustible Metals
Magnesium, Sodium

Learn the P-A-S-S Method
Stand 5 to 6 feet away from the fire with a clear path to an exit behind you.

P - Pull the pin.
A - Aim at the base of the fire.
S - Squeeze or press the handle.
S - Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it goes out.

Remember, fire extinguishers are designed to put out SMALL fires!
Most portable extinguishers are designed to last about 10 to 18 seconds. If the fire gets large, do not attempt to extinguish it - get out and stay out!
When exiting, close doors behind you to slow the spread of the fire.
Call 9-1-1 from a safe place.