



TELCOM INSURANCE GROUP

OCTOBER *FIRE* SAFETY ART CONTEST

Home fires killed 2,580 people in 2006. That's an average of about 7 people per day. 65% of these deaths occurred in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.* The U.S. fire departments responded to almost 400,000 home structure fires in 2006. In that same year, 12,500 injuries from home fires were reported.* Who knows how big the unreported number is.

Are these statistics acceptable? Because they shouldn't be.

Through careful study it's been discovered that the four leading causes of fire in the home are cooking, heating equipment, electrical, and smoking material. Cooking causes the most fires and the most injuries, but fires caused by smoking materials (cigarettes, cigars, pipes) and heating equipment are the leading cause of deaths in home fires. Almost half of home heating equipment fires were reported during the months of December, January, and February. Most often, electrical distribution and lighting equipment is involved in 20,800 home structure fires.

Home fires can be prevented with proactive safety. Look around at all potential hazards and **take some preventative measures to fix them:**

- Replace or repair all loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Don't overload outlets or extension cords. Plug only *one* high wattage appliance into an outlet at a time.
- Keep smoking materials and space heaters at least three feet from people and anything that can burn.
- Make sure to turn off all space heaters and burning candles before going to bed or leaving a room.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking, frying or broiling. When baking or boiling, use a timer to help keep things from burning. Remember: If you must leave the kitchen, turn the stove and oven off.
- Make sure to keep children and pets away from the stove.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Interconnected smoke alarms throughout the home are a very good option, because when one sounds, they all sound.

It is important to get fire safety information out in our communities and Telcom wants to help you do just that. As you already know, throughout the month of October, Fire Prevention Week activities will be going strong in communities across the United States. **Fire Prevention Week** will be held **October 5-11, 2008** and this year's theme is **"Prevent Home Fires"**.



Telcom wants to stay involved in your community, and in an effort to do so, we are promoting our **5th Annual Fire Safety Art Contest** inviting kids in your communities and of your employees to participate. This year's **Art Contest Theme** will be **"Prevent Home Fires: Find the Fire Hazard!"** The complete details are attached, but the premise is for kids (14 and younger) to draw pictures depicting possible fire hazards within the different areas of their homes creatively on an 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper. Collect them all and **send the entries to Telcom by Monday, October 20, 2008, for judging.** Prizes are available and the winning entry(ies) may be used in our next advertising/marketing materials.

At Telcom, we want to be not only your captive insurance company, but also active members of your communities. We invite your participation and look forward to publishing the winning entries.

(FYI: Last years winners are on our website: www.TelcomInsGrp.com)

**All Statistics Provided by NFPA*

GENERAL GUIDLINES

THEME:

PREVENTING HOME FIRES:
FIND THE HAZARDS!

PICTURE:

8 1/2 X 11 PAPER
COLORFUL

AGE GROUPS:

UNDER 8
8-10
11-14

DUE DATE

OCTOBER 20, 2008

QUESTIONS?

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