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- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.
- If you smoke, smoke outside, and use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

“The best prevention is preparation,” continued Chief Rudat. “To keep your family and home safe, develop an escape plan and practice your plan regularly with your family. At the same time, test your smoke alarm to make sure it is working properly and replace the batteries, if it is not hard-wired.”

The following tips will help keep your family safe if there is a fire in your home:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home (including the basement).
- Interconnect all smoke alarms in the home so when one sounds, they all sound.

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- Test smoke alarms at least monthly and replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond when tested.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to respond if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible ways out. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- If you are building or remodeling your home, consider installing home fire sprinklers.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs, including educational, family-oriented activities and technologies that can protect families from fire, please contact the City of Stockton Fire Prevention Division at (209) 937-8271. More information about this nationwide program is available at www.firepreventionweek.org.

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All Press Releases can be found on the City of Stockton website. www.stocktongov.com/news

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