



# The **TRUMPET**

## **Fire Prevention Week: Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention.**

### **In this Issue...**

- **Fire Prevention Inspector Promotions**
- **Fireworks Injury Statistics**
- **Wildfire Evacuation Checklist**

# HOT SPOTS @ OSEM

## Welcome to the OSFM...

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome a new office manager, emergency response chief, fiscal officer, assistant attorney general and senior administrative specialist to our team in Topeka.



Diana Peterson

**Diana Peterson** joins OSFM as our Office Manager, after spending the past 15 years working at Bed Bath & Beyond as a store manager. She brings over 36 years of experience with her.

Diana lives in Topeka with her husband, Bruce, and stepson, Devin. She likes riding motorcycles with her husband and twin sister and her husband. She also enjoys amateur photography, researching family history, traveling to national parks, and spending time with her family.

“This is a new opportunity,” Diana said. “It will offer new challenges, I’m sure, from the retail world where I have lived.”

## STAY CONNECTED



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# HOT SPOTS @ OSEFM



## Welcome to the OSFM...



Gregg Bollella

**Gregg Bollella** joins OSFM as the new Emergency Response Chief. He comes to OSFM after serving as the Battalion Chief of Operations for Johnson County EMS: MED-ACT. He has over 35 years of experience.

Gregg lives in Shawnee, with his wife Marni. They share three children, Joseph, Mia and Thomas. He has a JackChi, named Peanut, who thinks he is a 17-pound German Shepherd. He enjoys spending time with his family, severe weather and eating great food.

“When this position was created in 2015, I told my wife that I wanted the job when I retired,” Gregg said. “I was lucky that the job was available when I actually did retire. I believe in the mission of the Emergency Response Division, and I want to see it grow and build on the foundations laid before me.”

**Jamie Schumacher** joins OSFM as its new fiscal officer. She comes to OSFM after close to seven years with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s Fiscal/Management and Budget department.

Jamie lives in Holton with her fiancé, Dustin, his two boys and her daughter, as well as their American Bulldog, Kobi. She enjoys spending time with her family and anything outdoors around water.



Jamie Schumacher

“After learning more about this position, it felt like the next positive step in growing professionally,” Jamie said. “I love learning new skills and am ready to utilize my previous knowledge.”



Jared Smith

**Jared Smith** joins our office as our new Assistant Attorney General. He comes to OSFM after four years as a private general practice litigator.

Jared lives in Kansas City with his wife, Kristin, and two children, Cambridge and Ramona “Romy,” as well as their two cats, Oreo and Mango. He enjoys listening to music, spending time with his family, trying new eateries, and exploring outside parks/trails in the area.

“This is a great opportunity,” Jared said. “To serve the good state and people of Kansas.”

**Krystle Escobar** comes to OSFM as a Senior Administrative Specialist for our Emergency Response and Investigation Divisions. Prior to OSFM, she spent four and a half years with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Krystle lives in Topeka with her Morkie (half Maltese/half Yorkie) named Carl. She likes to read and is a member of a book club, as well as swimming and going to the gym.



Krystle Escobar

“I chose to take the position with OSFM because I wanted a chance to work with the fire departments in Kansas,” Krystle said. “And I was up for a new adventure in the State of Kansas Agencies.”

**Welcome to the OSFM, Diana, Gregg, Jamie, Jared and Krystle!**

## OUR MISSION

The agency’s mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through education, enforcement, hazardous material, inspection, investigation, regulation, and search & rescue incident responses.

## OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Coordination of Search and Rescue Efforts
- Enforcement
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Hazardous Material Incident Mitigation
- Inspection
- Investigation
- Plans Review
- Public Education

## The TRUMPET

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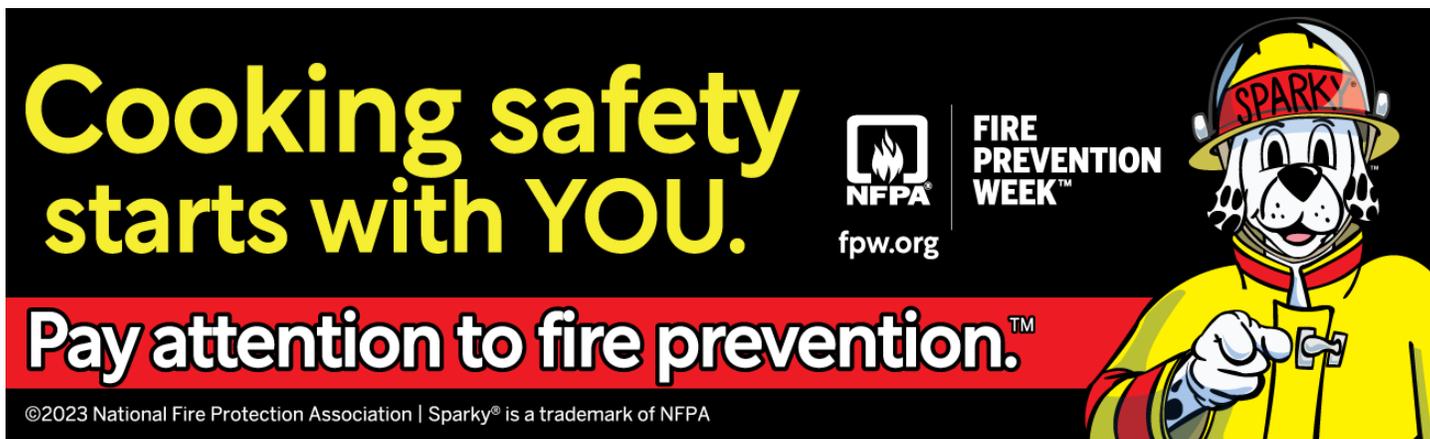
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## STAY CONNECTED



# October is Fire Prevention Month

*Governor Laura Kelly Proclaims Oct. 8-14, 2023, as Fire Prevention Week in Kansas*



**Cooking safety starts with YOU.**

**Pay attention to fire prevention.™**

NFPA  
fpw.org  
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

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Governor Laura Kelly officially proclaims Oct. 8-14, 2023, as Fire Prevention Week in Kansas. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Safe Kids Kansas and fire service agencies across the state are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

"Kitchens are a risky place for children," said Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas. "Hot surfaces, hot food and beverages and steam can all cause serious burns. Keep a three-foot, child-free safety zone around stoves and cooktops and teach older children to be careful when taking items out of the microwave to prevent scalds and burns."

According to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), one in five house fires in Kansas originated in the kitchen. Half of all kitchen fires in Kansas come from the stove; half of all Kansas kitchen fires happen between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and half of all Kansas kitchen fires happen on the weekend.

"A cooking fire can grow quickly. I have seen many homes damaged and people injured by fires that

could easily have been prevented," Doug Jorgensen, Kansas Fire Marshal, said. "I urge all Kansans to pay attention when they are cooking, especially with the holiday season quickly approaching."

Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires. These numbers show that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking.

***OSFM and Safe Kids Kansas want to share these safety tips to help reduce the risk of a cooking fire:***

- Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [FPW2023KS HERE](https://www.fpw2023ks.org) or visit [SafeKidsKansas.org](https://www.safekidskansas.org).

# Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

## “COOK WITH CAUTION”

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

## If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

## If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



## Cooking and Kids

Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

## FACTS

- ❗ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ❗ Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



# OSFM Recent Fire Prevention Inspector Promotions

Over the past year, OSFM has promoted eight Fire Prevention Inspectors from Inspector I to Inspector II positions. Inspector II staff perform advance technical work of reviewing architectural/engineering plans, code footprints for compliance, performing on-site construction inspections as well, as performing inspections for existing buildings for Life Safety Features. Congratulations, all on your hard work!



**Melissia Clark**  
September 2023



**Amanda Yorkey**  
September 2022



**Heath Dill**  
September 2022



**Jason Hoppe**  
September 2022



**Heather Lopez**  
September 2023



**Jay VanCoevern**  
September 2023



**Kenny Jaske**  
September 2023



**Spencer Smith**  
January 2023



## Now Hiring!

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is looking to fill two open Deputy Boiler positions. These positions offer health insurance, retirement, paid holidays, as well as sick and vacation leave.

If you have a passion for protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Kansas, you are a hard worker and have a great work ethic, we are looking for someone just like you! Please visit the State of Kansas Jobs website at [jobs.ks.gov](https://ks.gov) to apply today!

**For a list of OSFM current job openings visit**

**<https://firemarshal.ks.gov/Jobs.aspx>**

# OSFM Helps Lenexa Fire Department Celebrate 100 Years at Open House



OSFM demonstrated the importance of fire sprinkler systems in the home with its side-by-side burn trailer on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Lenexa Fire Department's Open House celebrating 100 years.



# Kansas Firefighters Study to Become Certified Fire Investigators

Office of the State Fire Marshal Investigators and other senior fire investigators from around Kansas recently taught a course in law enforcement activities involving fire investigation for 30 firefighters.

## Topics included:

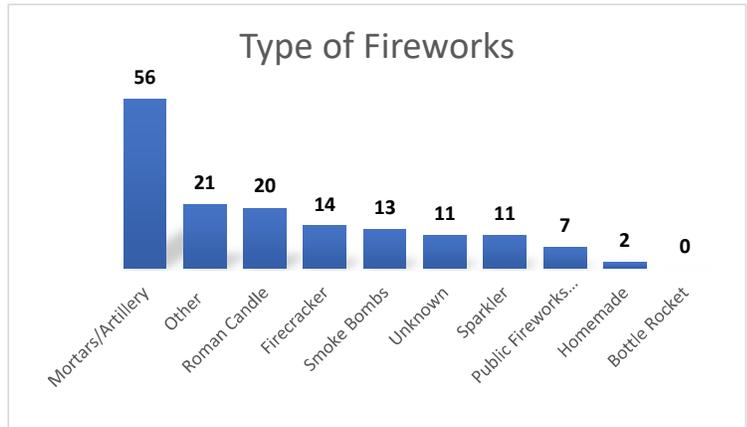
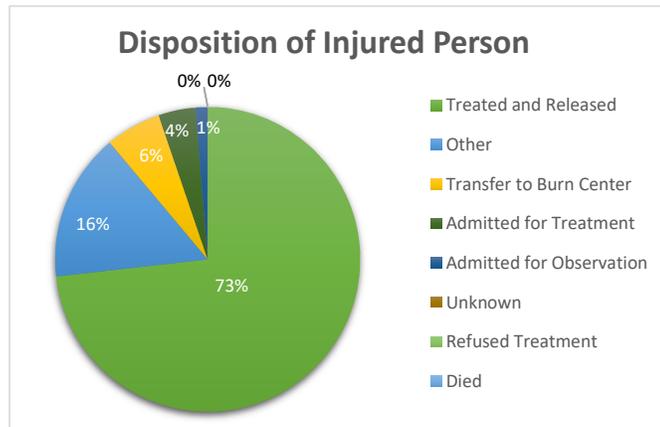
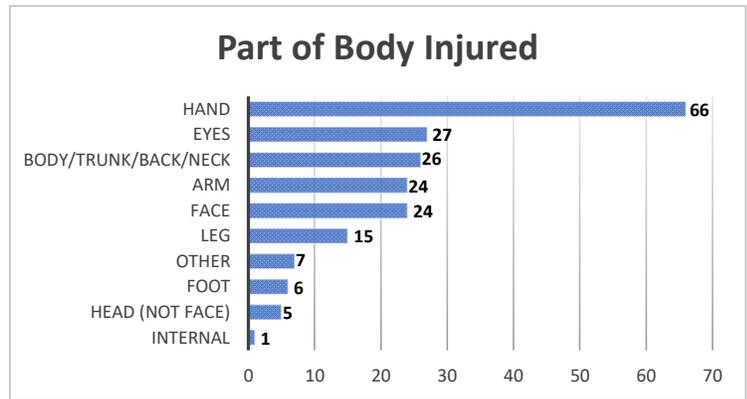
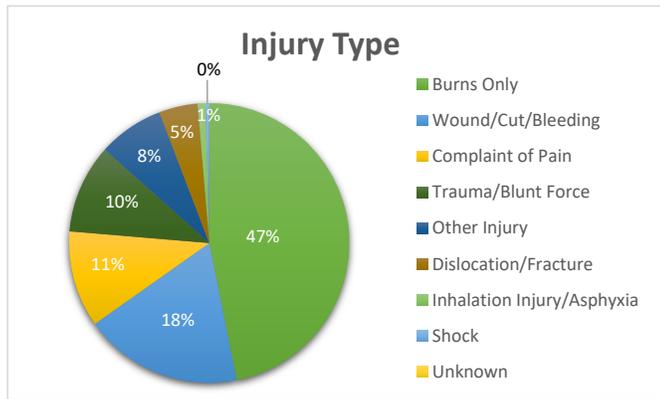
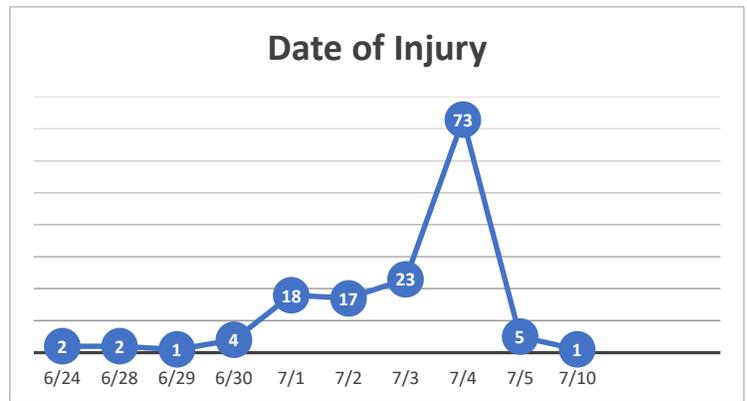
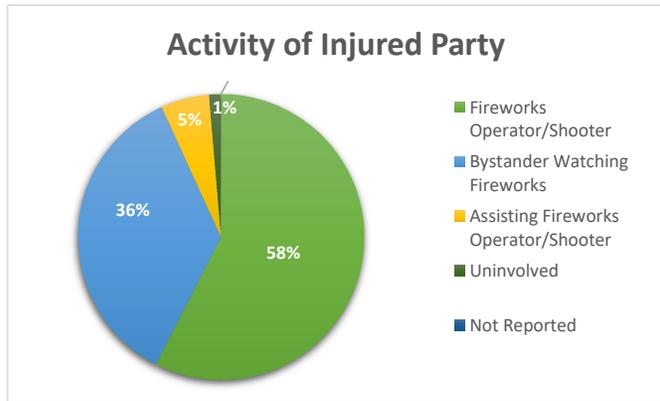
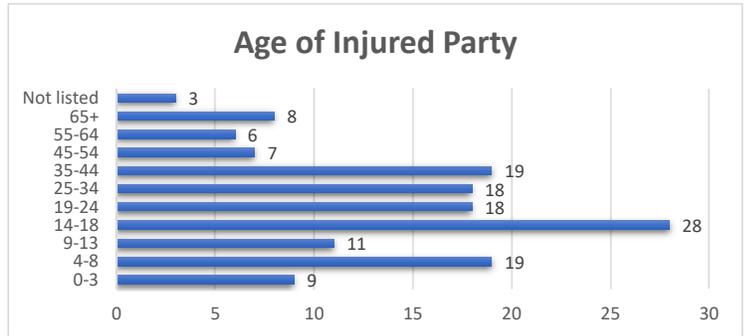
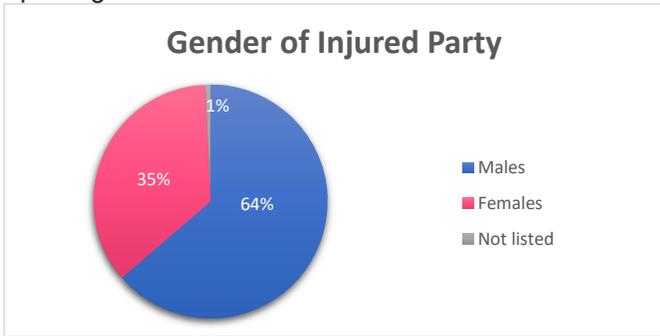
- **Laws of Arrest**
- **Search and Seizure**
- **Criminal Law and Code**
- **Report Writing**
- **Search Warrant and Affidavits**
- **Crime Scene Investigation**
- **Evidence Collection**
- **Juvenile Law**
- **Biased Based Policing**
- **Interviews**

All 30 students completed the course with above an 80 percent passing grade. Some of these students will now apply to become Certified Fire Investigators, while others still have to complete another 80 hours of training in the basics of fire investigation. That class will begin in October, and is already full.



## FIREWORK INJURY STATISTICS FOR 2023\*

There were a total of 146 injuries caused by fireworks in 2023. The individual shooting the firework was most likely to be injured, and the hands were the most common body part to be injured. Over half of the injuries occurred on the 4th of July, and most persons received burns. There was a 43 percent increase in reported injuries from 2022. With the exception of two age groups, all saw an increase. Injuries were more than doubled for the 14-18-year-old age group. The highest incidences of injuries were caused by mortars or artillery fireworks and other fireworks like parachutes, fountains and spinning items.



\*Statistics are current as of 08/17/2023 and are gathered from a voluntary report submitted by healthcare facilities in Kansas.



## **Spontaneous Combustion from Oily Rags**

Milder Temperatures often go hand in hand with home improvement activities. Many of those activities include painting and staining of homes, decks, furniture, and other projects. It is important to realize that improper disposal of rags soiled with oil-based products can cause a dangerous risk of fire. The state of Kansas sees an average of 15-20 of these types of fires annually. One recent example, a homeowner staining boards during a home renovation. The stain-soiled rags were put in a plastic tote and placed next to the exterior of the home. The rags smoldered and ignited causing a total loss of the home. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported from this fire.

Fires caused by spontaneous combustion, are due to the heat released from the oil-based products as they dry. When rags soiled with these products are placed in a pile or an enclosed space, the heat does not have space to dissipate and can cause the rags or surrounding combustible materials to ignite. Once ignition occurs, a fire of this nature can spread quickly to nearby structures and cause damage to your home or property. Examples of these products are oil-based paints, stains, linseed oil, varnishes, polyurethane, and paint thinner. You should always read product labels and instructions for disposal to ensure you are not placing your home and family at unnecessary risk.

The first step to preventing spontaneous combustion fires is proper disposal of oil-based product, soiled rags. Knowing these products produce heat as they dry, the best practice is to lay the rags in a well-ventilated area, preferably outdoors, to allow for drying without trapping the heat. If it is necessary to store soiled rags in a container, they should be placed in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. After laundering, these rags should be allowed to cool completely before being folded and stored. Once soiled, even after laundering, these rags should be stored in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid.

Armed with this knowledge we can create a safer Kansas by stopping preventable fires from occurring and jeopardizing the safety of your loved ones and property.

# Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

Make leaving safely second nature



Plan, prepare and practice these simple tips that can help make leaving your home quicker, easier and safer in the event of a wildfire and reduce your risk of injury.

## Pre-fire: Plan, prepare and practice before a wildfire occurs.

A wildfire may make it necessary for you and your neighbors to evacuate. Plan, prepare and practice wildfire evacuation together and with your local emergency services. This can help save lives!



### Pre-fire: plan

- ✔ Sign up to receive local emergency alerts and warnings on all home phones, cellphones and other devices.
- ✔ Know what your community's emergency notification and evacuation plans are.
- ✔ Plan an evacuation route away from your home and other alternate routes in case the first route is closed or threatened by wildfire.
- ✔ Make sure your designated contact knows your plan and to communicate with you to know you are safe.
- ✔ Know the evacuation plans for locations where household members regularly are such as workplaces, schools and commuter routes.
- ✔ Plan to evacuate family, friends or neighbors who have disabilities.
- ✔ Maintain roads and bridges on your property and in your community if you are responsible for them. Improve roads to have 2 ways out and make them wide enough for emergency vehicles. Make sure everyone can open gated roads. Post load limits on bridges. Build culverts with materials that won't melt.



### Pre-fire: prepare

- ✔ Prepack emergency supply kits.
- ✔ Back vehicles into your garage or park them in an open space facing the direction of escape.
- ✔ Keep the gas tank in vehicles at least half full.



### Pre-fire: practice

- ✔ Practice often with everyone in your home, using at least 2 ways out of your neighborhood.
- ✔ Participate in community wildfire drills. If something could keep you from leaving successfully, such as a locked gate, address it immediately.
- ✔ Practice evacuating animals and pets, including how to operate trailers and other vehicles needed to transport them. Know what resources are needed for their care in case of evacuation.





## During a wildfire event

- ✔ Charge all cellphones in case of power loss.
- ✔ Know the local fire conditions and be prepared to leave at a moment's notice.
- ✔ Leave early if you are concerned. It may take more time than you think to evacuate due to heavier traffic and decreased visibility, or if you have small children, pets or livestock, or have physical challenges.
- ✔ Go promptly when told to evacuate.
- ✔ Don't drive out with trailers or large vehicles like RV's, especially if you are unfamiliar with operating them. A stalled or abandoned vehicle makes it hard for others to leave and first responders to get into the area.
- ✔ Keep your car windows up and the air conditioning on to prevent embers and smoke from entering the vehicle.
- ✔ Continue to listen for additional evacuation instructions.



## After evacuating

- ✔ Make sure that everyone is okay once you are out. If someone is injured or not feeling well, get immediate assistance.
- ✔ Inform your designated contact as soon as you are safe.
- ✔ Don't return to your home until you are told you can safely do so.
- ✔ Follow safety guidance, including bringing in fresh water and other supplies.



# Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

**Name of Product:**

Crete & Barrel Avena Mini Table Lamps

**Hazard:**

A loose electrical cord connection in the lamps can pose a fire hazard.

**Remedy:**

Refund

**Recall Date:**

August 03, 2023

**Units:**

About 600



**Name of Product:**

Honda Model EU7000is Portable Generators

**Hazard:**

The fuel filler cap can improperly seal, resulting in fuel and/or fuel vapor leaking, posing a fire hazard.

**Remedy:**

Repair

**Recall Date:**

August 03, 2023

**Units:**

About 250



**Name of Product:**

Amana Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners/Heat Pumps (PTACs) equipped with "DigiAir" modules

**Hazard:**

The DigiAir module compressor can overheat, posing burn and fire hazards.

**Remedy:**

Repair

**Recall Date:**

August 03, 2023

**Units:**

About 62,100 (In addition, about 302 were sold in Canada)



**Name of Product:**

Philips Avent Digital Video Baby Monitors

**Hazard:**

The rechargeable lithium-ion batteries in the Parent Unit monitors can overheat during charging, posing a risk of burns and property damage.

**Remedy:**

Replace

**Recall Date:**

August 03, 2023

**Units:**

About 12,850



For more information on recalls and consumer safety information and to sign up for direct recall notifications, please visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).



**Working smoke alarms save lives!**

**Free Smoke Alarm Program**

**GetAlarmedKS.org**

# BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



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## HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- »» **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- »» **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- »» Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- »» **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- »» **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- »» **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- »» **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

### Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in roughly **800** reported home fires each year. More than one-third of these fires were started by a candle.



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards

