



Protecting Our Parishes, Missions, and Schools

Parish Fire Safety

According to the U.S. Fire Administration an average of 1,300 church fires are reported each year resulting in \$38 million in property loss.

Potential sources of fires include anything that can get hot, produces sparks, or has a flame such as a candle. Most common types of heat producers we encounter in our Parishes are heaters and electrical equipment, cooking appliances, candles, cigarette smoking, overloading of electrical circuits, etc.

Awareness Tips

Electrical Devices

- Do not overload circuits by adding multi-outlet adapters, extension cords, or daisy chaining extension cords.
- Report and disconnect power to any electrical devices that may be overheating or smells of burning plastic.
- Do not leave heat producing appliances unattended.
- Do not leave space heaters unattended or plugged in overnight.
- Do not use circuit breakers as an alternative to light switches.
- Do not run extension cords under carpets, through doorways and walls.
- Utilize fluorescent light bulbs whenever possible (produce less heat).

Cooking

- Do not disconnect smoke alarm while cooking.
- Never bring household type of cooking appliances to work. Cooking should only be done in an approved kitchen as designated by the facility manager.
- Never leave food unattended while cooking.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking or barbecuing.
- Do not use turkey fryers.
- Do not use water or flour to extinguish a grease fire and never try to carry the pan outside.
- Put a lid on a grease fire to extinguish or use a multi-purpose fire extinguisher; baking soda can also be used.
- In case of oven fires, keep oven door closed, turn off the heat.
- Call for help if you can not extinguish a fire safely yourself; leave the area and call 9-1-1.

Flammable Materials Storage

- Store flammable materials in approved area only— do not store these materials in closets, attics, air condition rooms, or other non-approved storage rooms.
- Substitute with non-flammable materials when possible.
- Use flammable materials in well ventilated areas only, away from any heat producing equipment, like gas operated stoves and hot water heaters.
- Keep flammable liquids in approved, airtight, metal containers.
- Do not place flammable storage containers near heat sources such as electrical equipment rooms, boiler rooms or heater rooms.
- Do not use plastic gas cans—only use UL-approved metal gas cans with self-closing lids.

General Best Practices

- Smoking should only be allowed in designated smoking areas.
- Do not bring candles or other type of air fresheners to work. Others may be allergic to scented products. You should always check with your manager and/or the building manager prior to bringing in flame-producing or air scents into the work area.
- Check to ensure flower arrangements/Christmas trees do not become too dry and are too close to heat producing devices or candles.
- Do not leave candles or open flames unattended. Consider converting to electric candles to replace conventional candles.
- Maintain good housekeeping practices to prevent accumulation of paper, boxes, and other materials that can become a fuel source in the event of a fire.

Remember—If there is a fire, get out and stay out. Never go back into a burning building. Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone or cell phone.

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