

## *Northville Township Fire Department Fire Safety Tips*

### *Fire is a Major Destroyer of Property – and Lives*

- Each year in the United States fires kill approximately 6,000 people, injure an additional 100,000, and cause more than \$7 billion worth of property damage.
- Older people are at greatest risk. The risk of fire death for Americans age 65 and over is three times greater than the risk for adults under 65.
- Hospital stays of more than 40 days are common for elderly burn victims.

### *A Smoke Detector Can Make The Difference*

- 80 percent of all fire deaths take place in residences not equipped with working smoke detectors.
- Smoke detectors can provide early warning of fires, allowing time for families to escape and firefighters to arrive before the fire grows.
- Smoke detectors should be installed on each level of your home.

### *Taking Care of Your Smoke Detector*

- Once a month smoke detectors should be tested. Most have a test button to press. Or, you can use the smoke of a candle beneath the detector until you hear the alarm.
- Once a year batteries should be replaced. Take off the smoke detector cover, remove the old battery and insert a new one.
- When you clean your house don't forget your smoke detectors. Simply use the vacuum cleaner to clean dust away from the detector's air vents.

## *Fire Safety Tips*

- Fire prevention is still the best method of fire safety, and since some older people have problems moving quickly – and suffer more when injuries and smoke inhalation occur – it is essential to prevent fires from happening at all.
- Plan an escape route from your home or apartment – plan two routes, if possible – and practice this plan.
- Never smoke in bed. Don't smoke in your favorite, comfortable chair when you feel drowsy or drink alcohol.
- Do not empty ashtrays that may contain smoldering materials until they are completely out.
- Don't wear loose-fitting clothing when cooking over a stove and never leave your cooking unattended – even for a moment ... be sure all the burners are off when you have finished.
- Do not use towels as potholders. They ignite easily if they are placed too near a burner.
- Place a rubber mat in front of your stove, to prevent you from slipping and falling against it.
- A circuit breaker or fuse that constantly trips or blows may be a sign of a possible electrical problem. Call an electrician or other qualified person to check the wiring.
- Keep anything that might burn away from space heaters.
- Check all appliance cords for fraying and exposed wires.
- Sleep with your bedroom door closed. This helps keep any smoke and flames from reaching you.
- Keep a whistle, a flashlight, and your eyeglasses near your bed. In the event of a fire, smoke and heat usually rise so bend low, or crawl if necessary, and get out quickly.
- If your clothes catch on fire, cover your face, drop to the floor and roll until the flames have gone out. Or drape a large blanket or towel around your body to extinguish the flames.