Rural Fire Safety Life-Saving Tips

☑ Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.

☑ When building a home or addition, use fire-resistant roofing materials. Avoid using wood materials that offer the least fire protection. Also use fire-resistant siding such as stucco, brick, stone, etc.

☑ Let your landscape defend your property. Create defensible space by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet of your home.

☑ Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home and other structures.

☑ Store flammable materials, liquids, and solvents in metal containers outside the home, at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.

☑ Burning yard waste is a fire hazard. Check with your fire department on a nonemergency number for fire permit requirements and restricted burning times.

☑ Have your chimney inspected and cleaned regularly by a certified specialist

☑ Provide emergency vehicle access with properly constructed driveways and roadways, at least 12 feet wide with adequate turnaround space.

☑ Post home address signs that are clearly visible from the road.

☑ Develop and practice fire escape and evacuation plans with your family.

Did you know?

► Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.

► Heating is the leading cause of residential fires in rural areas.

► Deaths due to fires in rural areas are particularly preventable.

► Having a working smoke alarm reduces one’s chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.