

## VACATION SAFETY

When you are planning your vacation, plan for your home safety too. Make sure you check that all stoves, ovens, and electrical appliances have been turned off or disconnected. It's a good idea to unplug television sets, radios, computers, DVD players, etc. when you are away. If lightning storms occur or there are strong electrical surges they could damage your electronics or start a fire. Make sure that if you put lamps on timers that they use the correct wattage bulb and that it is well away from any combustibles.

When you come home check your smoke alarm as soon as you can, the batteries could run down or it could fail while you were away.

If you will be staying in a hotel or motel, make sure it has smoke alarms installed. It's more preferable to have a hotel or motel that has a fire sprinkler system in it too. If there is no fire sprinkler system, request a room on the lower floors.

When you settle into your room be sure to read the fire safety information that is usually attached to the back of the entry door. Just like in your home, you need to have a plan on how to escape in case there is a fire or emergency. Some hotels even have a video that you can watch on the room TV that tells you what to do in an emergency. Make sure you and your family know how the doors locks work and if the window opens how it unlocks too. Know where the closest fire alarm pull station and fire exit are located on your floor. Because smoke can be very thick and dark, count the doors from your room to the exit so you can find it in a dark hallway. Keep your room key and your cell phone near the bed. The cell phone can usually be used as a flashlight to help you see to get out if you don't have a flashlight with you.

If you hear the fire alarm or suspect that there may be a fire in the hotel or motel, investigate it too see if you need to evacuate. Before you open your door feel of it with the back of your hand to see if it is hot. If it is cool then you can exit. ALWAYS take your room key and your cell phone with you, that way if you can't get out the floor exit at least you can go back to your room and try to protect yourself. Stay low under the smoke level, use a wet towel over your mouth and nose to filter the air. If the fire alarm is not sounding, pull the manual fire alarm pull station at the exit as you leave to warn the other guests. Once you are outside try to find the hotel or motel management so you can give them information about the fire and let them know that you and your family are out. Do not stand in the fire lanes and do not try to move your car, these actions can delay the fire fighters from being able to do their job.

If the door is hot, do not open it, stay in the room. Fill the bathtub with water. Place wet towels or sheets into the cracks around and under the door to keep the smoke out. It's a good idea to travel with some duct tape too. It can be used to seal the door and any common air vents that the smoke could enter through. You can also use it to spell out words on your window to get help. Make sure to call the fire department and tell them you are trapped in your room and what your room number is.

If the fire starts in your room, get out, close the door, and activate the fire alarm system. Call the fire department as soon as you are safely out of danger.

Never use the elevator to escape a fire, always use the stairs. Stay to the right side of the stairs to allow fire fighters to come up as you go down. Also, make sure you hold onto the stair handrail so you won't fall.