**Drugs, the CIA and the Black Community**

By Cheryl Brown

**Black Voice News**

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KwaZulu-Natal Visitors Share on Whirlwind Tour

**Core**

By Cheryl Brown

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There does not seem to be a discipline plan in many of our order to live a happy productive life. The home and school are the whole village working for our school children at the "Power Reading" parade and demonstration on Saturday, September 21, 1996 at the Moreno Valley Mall.

"Education is an important element in the struggle for human rights, our passport to the future, in that tomorrow which to burn down a decadent world of corruption and so don't play with fire or misuse other people, regardless of during the winter, cooks food, heats water for baths, and many other useful purposes. Take also good care to have true with proper relations with other people. These should be taught and shared with the child at home, school, and community at a very early age. Without such training, the child would die like a dog, for there will be no life on earth. We need them for cooking, growing food, cleaning the body, and recreation.

"Education is the telephone in the combination of the home, the community, the school and the receptive mind."

Harry Edwards

"It is an abomination of the gods to show partiality. Upon him who is known to thee like he who is unknown to thee."

Sentiment from Alice Walker, "In Search of Our Mother's Gardens," 1983

Race. However, fire has many useful roles -- keeps you warm to treat others, 2) how to take care of your body, 3) fire will hurt you if touched. Fire can destroy you and your property, so don't play with fire or misuse other people, regardless of informers and liars.

The objective of The Black Voice News is to communicate information to all members of the Inland Empire. The Black Voice News is also a member of the West Coast Black Publishers Association and the Los Angeles Newspaper Publishers Association (LNPA). The LNPA's three main objectives are: 1) to protect the free enterprise system, 2) to advance the welfare of the members of the LNPA, and 3) to promote the public's understanding of the critical importance of a free press to a free society. The LNPA has a long tradition of making a difference for its members and the communities they serve.
The prostate, a gland that is located just below the bladder, is the size of a small orange. Its function is to produce the seminal fluid that nourishes and protects the sperm.

Our Bodies

Family Talks

Why do I need to know geometry? This daunting question in high school was never answered. Boys good at shooting pool would say that understanding geometry helped them see the angles of the cue that they were shooting. Girls who had an adult life in front of them had learned that geometry is fundamental to good visual judgement. Primarily, the more we know about rea­soning and Geometry, the better adult life I have learned that... "I must be mindful."

Ernest Levister, M.D.

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Geometry and Reason

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Blacks Involved in Clinton Campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Former President Clinton’s personal chef, Art Wheat, as Deputy Campaign Manager and Director of Constituent Outreach at the Clinton/Gore Re-Election Committee, says African Americans will be involved in every level of campaign activity in President Bill Clinton’s reelection efforts.

At the top African American official on President Bill Clinton’s campaign, Wheat has broad responsibilities that include general campaign policy, supervision, in coordination with the deputy managing editor and with Campaign Manager Peter Knight, and specific duties in coordination with the deputy managing editor.

LA NAACP To Host Annual Dinner

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles NAACP is hosting its annual Freedom Fund dinner on October 10, 1996 at Beverly Hilton Hotel. This is the organization’s fourth annual “Freedom and Justice for All” and the NAACP will be honoring the following individuals whose work has made an indelible impact on African Americans and other minorities. These individuals include: Johnnie Cochran, Esq, Lifetime Achievement Award; Danny Bakerwell, Medgar Wylie Evers, Wade Memo-

By James Clingman

Why do we hold our brothers and sisters to a higher standard than that which we hold ourselves? Have you ever thought about that? Like a brother or a sister say, “I’m not doing business with any more Black people.” “They don’t do what they promised”… they charged too much for their services and they messed up my order.” And the beat goes on.

It is unfortunate that some of us start immediately to measure, compare, analyze, and criticize the mistakes of others, admittedly, the malfeasance of Black business partners and never do the same thing for business owners by others.

Certainly most of us have been “tipped-off” at least once in our lives, and many of us are at least once a week. However, we tend to punish our own people for their transgressions and serve up apologies and explanations to our brethren. That does not make much sense, especially when we join our hands to gain parity in the marketplace.

Don’t get me wrong. I am not saying we should overlook bad service or an inferior product — from anyone. But I am suggesting that we apply the same yardstick and the same common-sense business that betrays our trust.

For instance, while we are railing against Black-owned businesses, we should also be aware of the fact that Black professionals charge more than other businesses when we get a fair return? Do those businesses hire our sons and daughters? Do those businesses participate in and support Black communities? Do those businesses view us as a matter of policy, see that a portion of their business goes to Black-owned businesses?

Now some might say this is an unfair comparison, but it is the greatest economic strength, as one of the largest consumer groups in the world, is our buying power — at least for now. We must take into account our $400 billion contribution (and that is exactly what it is) per year in this country’s economy. What do we get for it? If we can criticize and institute a virtual boycott of our own business in these few dollars, in most cases, what’s so outliers and unfair about the same treatment for Black-owned businesses?

An excellent example of what I am trying to convey is something a friend told me. He said a Black friend of his refused to buy his gas at the Black-owned station because he could get a five cents cheaper gas at the White-owned station, in another neighborhood.

Keep in mind the Black-owned station had black employees, the same race as the man who asked the ‘brother’ the capacity of his tank. Twenty gallons,” was his reply. My friend then asked if supporting another brother’s business was worth $1 per fill-up to him. “Hemm,” the brother said. “I never thought of that way.”

Too often we fail to see the big picture when it comes to economic empowerment. In this case it was not about the cost of fuel per gallon, it was about the collective cost of 20 gallons; one dollar.

It’s often the easy way out for us to find reasons and excuses not to participate in a collective economic struggle. We should spend more time finding reasons for doing so.

The next time you walk away from a Black-owned business after receiving poor service or an inferior product or even a higher price — think. Don’t give up on all of our businesses because of a bad experience with one.

Think not about your alternative. If you do your homework, you will see that you’re getting an inferior product or service— from the ‘other guys’ as well. At a cost of more than $300 billion — 95 percent of what we earn — we get very little in return. Besides, if we keep just another 25 cents of every dollar we spend within our own businesses, we would have that extra nickel to buy the brother’s gasoline — a whole lot more.

As we seek fairness for ourselves, let’s be fair to one another.

...

Economic Empowerment

Nordstrom Joins with Local Hospitals to Open Two Mammmography Centers in SoCal.

FASHION specialty retailer Nordstrom has announced it will open mammography centers in two of its Southern California stores. The first California Mammography Center will open in the Glendale store with Huntington Memorial Hospital and the Bill Benrud Center. Also, Nordstrom’s will open a second Women’s Health and Mammography Center with Loma Linda University Cancer Institute at its store in Riverside, CA.

The idea for a Women’s Health and Mammography Center was originally brought to Nordstrom by the Evanston and Glenside Hospitals of Evanston and Glenview, Illinois. A center was opened with much success in the Fall of 1995 in Nordstrom’s Old Orchard Store.

Nordstrom strives to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of the communities we serve. We feel fortunate to team up with these outstanding health care facilities to provide this unique service to our customers,” said Pete Nordstrom, co-president of Nordstrom.

For more information about hours of operation and opening information for the Glendale Mammography Center, please call the Glendale Nordstrom at (818) 502-9922. For information about the Riverside Women’s Health and Mammography Center and their opening events, please call (909) 351-1710.

...
By Carla Sanders

Several prominent African-American ministers have publicly declared their support for women and families facing unwed pregnancy. They have called for the end of the "abortion war" and have emphasized the importance of providing women with options that respect their autonomy.

"The church has been silent too long on the issues of reproductive rights," said Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "women have interpreted that silence as a lack of support or even condemnation," said Rev. Carlton V. Beatty, Jr., deputy chair of the National Baptist Convention.

Clergy from major Black denominations, including Rev. Edgar L. James of the United Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop John E.onest of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Rev. William E. Becton of the American Baptist Association have endorsed the movement.

"Only you can decide which is the right choice for you," said Rev. James, "and we will make sure you have the information you need to make the right decision for yourself."

The brochure was published under the auspices of the Black Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (BRC) and its Women of Color Partnership.

I come from the South and I remember before Roe v. Wade when women had no means of birth control or family planning. They resorted to illegal abortion. After Roe v. Wade it was a blessing for all women, but particularly women of color, who had no access to safe abortions," explained Rev. James.

Though he meets strong opposition to his views, Rev. Beatty is adamant about his position. He said, "the highest moral authority one has is one's conscience, and God has made us free moral agents to make choices for ourselves, therefore I support women who make that choice.

I support a woman's choice as it relates to her body. God honors choice when we do it with integrity and when we strengthen the decision," the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice are distributing the brochure to women's health clinics, religious groups, and other agencies supporting Black women. Call (202) 638-7700 for information.

Go to your local post office, fill out a voter registration card and drop it in the mail. Upcoming elections will be held Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Exercise your right to vote — a right that so many of our people died for to ensure that we have.

For more information call the BCNN at 1-800-782-0309.

Black Ministers Support Freedom of Choice

CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE
2591 Rubidoux
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 369-8742
Craig W. Johnson Pastor

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Mid-Day Praise Service 12 p.m.
Afternoon Prayer Service 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Afternoon Service 7:00 p.m.

ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2155 71st Street
San Bernardino, CA 92411
(909) 596-1713
Rev. Charles Brooks

Weekly Services

REFRESHING SPRING TEMPLE
Church of Christ
2853 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92507
(909) 784-0560

NEW TABERNACLE TEMPLE
3638 Forest Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45229

MINISTRATION OF THE WORD
(mid-week worship)

CITY OF REDEMPTION TEMPLE
1105 W. 21st St.
Palm Springs, CA 92262

EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1355 W. 21st Street
San Bernardino, CA 92411

(877) 540-5126

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100 Chest Rd.
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(760) 322-4875

Rev. Jerry Johnson

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Carl
(909) 688-7872
7347 Juniper Ave.

The Black Voice News
Tuesday Prayer Meeting & " técnico - cat " society. Many
claim to be married. How is
They live together, the whole
Woods;
Dr. Reginald Woods
Community Baptist
QUESTION:
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Baptist
Dear Pastor
Sund a y School
Sunday School
Sund a y School
Sund ay School
D e v o tio n & W o rship
Sund ay Services
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Riverside, CA 92507

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A Spiritual-lighting hit Alles Chapel AME, 4504 Grand Ave., on the 31st, on Sunday in 4th Street. The appointment of Rev. Sherrelle Garrett-Egans is

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- **95 Lincoln Town Car**
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  - Freeway Discount: -1,171
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  - Your Cost: $16,839

- 96 Mercury Cougar XR7
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  - Freeway Discount: -1,296
  - Factory Rebate: -1,000
  - Your Cost: $15,859

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  - Freeway Discount: -2,945
  - Factory Rebate: -800
  - Your Cost: $34,460

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  - MSRP: $21,870
  - Freeway Discount: -1,861
  - Factory Rebate: -1,500
  - Your Cost: $18,509

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  - Freeway Discount: -3,000
  - Factory Rebate: -3,000
  - Your Cost: $31,440

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  - Freeway Discount: -2,100
  - Factory Rebate: -1,000
  - Your Cost: $25,975

- 96 Lincoln MK VIII
  - MSRP: $38,440
  - Freeway Discount: -3,000
  - Factory Rebate: -3,000
  - Your Cost: $31,440

- 95 Mercury Mystique
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  - VIN: #624698
- **95 Lincoln Town Car**
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Sale Ends 10/31/96
Chargers have a block party in thrilling win over Chiefs

By LELAND STEIN III
BVN Sports Editor

SAN DIEGO, Sept. 30 - Can any game this early in the season be considered a must win? For the revived and better chemistry North Huskies of Riverside, the answer is yes. It was a gut-wrenching, hard-fought football game.

Defensive coordinator Pete Stoyanovich with only 22 seconds left in the game. He kicked kind of high. I just pumped up the ball and hit it on my wrist and arm. But, sure it was one of the biggest plays or blocks of my career."

On the run: Heroic defensive line backer Junior Seau and Rodney Harrison corral Greg Hill. Sure, it was one of the biggest blocks of my career. It was just a hunch that paid off this time for me. I was waiting for that last break was the team that whoever got the last break was the team that was going to win."

The contest between these two West rivals proved to be a thrilling football encounter, that answered some questions about how real both teams are. They are indeed quality football teams that will be battling all year long for that championship feeling. How good can this team really get? After all, a number of excellent veterans that were key players in the Chargers' Super Bowl year (1995) are long gone. Is this year's version of the revamped and better chemistry Chargers for a better team?

"We have a good team," Moten said. "The game is a game and we are playing it."

"It was a hell of a win and a hell of a character check for our team," noted Charger coach Bobby Ross. "I've been associated with it was a gut-wrenching, hard-fought football game."

It is a very emotional," Paredes said. "We have some young players at key positions, but we are coming together as a team. I think when people count us out, it just draws us closer."

"We extended our lungs in support of our coach," added Moten. "It was kind of a wrenching, hard-fought football game."
Tony Toni Tone to Release New LP in November

Mercury recording artists TONY TONI TONE are currently in the studio wrapping up their new album, titled House Of Music. This new studio album is the follow-up to 1995's critically acclaimed Sons Of Soul album, which sold over two million copies in the U.S. and spawned the hit singles "If I Had No Loot," "Lay Your Head On My Pillow," and "Anniversary."

House Of Music is once again trademarked by the band's organic style of rhythm and blues, and uses select pieces of vintage recording equipment and a 40-piece string orchestra to capture a soulful sound reminiscent of The Temptations, The Stylistics, Sly and the Family Stone and Al Green.

Sons Of Soul was named the #1 Album of the Year by Time magazine, and a Top 10 Album of the Year by the New York Times, USA Today and Newsday. Additionally, Rolling Stone critics named TONY TONI TONE the best R&B Band of the Year. The band was also nominated for a Grammy for "Anniversary."

Produced by the band and recorded in Los Angeles and Oakland, House Of Music is set for a November release.

Wreckx-N-Effect

Rap's New Generation may be only the third full length album released by Wreckx-N-Effect, but the Harlem duo has pulled off an album title that appears to dub them as Rap's new generation. Group members Markell "Miggidy Mak" Riley and Aqil "A-Plus" Davidson currently in the studio wrapping up their new album, titled "Anniversary."

"Move Da Crowd" and Afrika Bambaataa's "Planet Rock" are among the list of cherished Hip Hop relics. "Rakim's Vapors," Erick B., KRS-One's "Criminal Minded," and Shawni's "We On" are but a few of the 14 classic Hip Hop songs and their effects and an infectous party complete with ample sound over a head nodding track that are included on the album. Wreckx-N-Effect have taken these 14 songs and recreated them with a '90s twist while still dealing with the original subject of MC Lyte's lover. Wreckx' version is about trying to comprehend the complications of "living in' the midst of the struggle," rather than the secret crack cocaine addiction of MC Lyric's lover. KRS-One's "Criminal Minded," Biz Markie's "Da Vapors," Erick B. and Rakim's "More Da Crowd" and Afrika Bambaataa's "Planet Rock" are among the list of cherished Hip Hop relics.

Markell says Rap's will hopefully open doors for these pioneering artists who paved the way for rappers that followed. He adds that this will additionally serve as an education to young Hip Hop fans. "Maybe they'll go to the store and buy some of these old songs and see what Rap was all about when it first came out," says Markell.
Conversation With Cochran in San Bernardino Visit

Johnnie Cochran will appear at the Stages Theatre of Fine Arts located at 780 N. E. Street in San Bernardino on Wednesday, October 16 at 4 p.m. Tickets to the event will include Cochran's Journey to Justice (One World/Ballantine Books) in which he discusses his beginnings in Shreveport, Louisiana to his successful and reputable career as a defense attorney.

Johnnie Cochran represents success in the most simple of terms: his mother, Roberta, co-owner of the presenting bookstore.

Phenis Information Center said, "Even beyond his role in the trial, he has demonstrated courage to fight against misconduct in the criminal justice system and he has boldly fought for the rights of those in whose case some might believe were questionable cases."

In Journey, readers will learn of Cochran's role in such cases as Ron Seals, a Black college football star whose death at the hands of the police was made to look like a suicide, and a record 9.4 million dollar jury verdict he won for a 13-year-old Latina girl molested by a uniformed LAPD officer. "When readers learn of his previous experiences," Roberts adds, "they then will learn of the passion this man has to fight for the rights of others. He has an incredible past and we are pleased to help share his story with the community."

Cochran's appearance follows visits by Prosecutor Chris Darden and three former Jurors who provided personal insight and experiences from the Simpson trial. A portion of the event's proceeds will benefit Ecclesia Christian Fellowship's Youth Program and Building Fun. Co-sponsors of the event include: the Inland Empire African American Attorney Association, James Wesley Vines Medical Foundation, San Bernardino Bulletin and Main Street, Inc.

For ticket information about the Cochran event, contact Phenis Information Center by calling (909-383-2239).

Nissan Taking People Places

Nissan Motor Corporation has created two positions for Jerry Florence (I) and Florence Dickerson to manage, market and advertise plans and strategies and developing outreach programs in support of core strategies targeting minority consumer audiences.

Florence joined Nissan in 1993 and served as Vice President, President, Brand and Consumer Marketing for Nissan Motor Corporation U.S.A., while Dickerson takes the helm as Minority Marketing Manager. Florence joined Nissan in 1993 and served as Vice President, Marketing until his career position. He is responsible for all marketing activities for Nissan and Infiniti including the United States, Canada, and Mexico. His specific functions include marketing strategy for all cars lines and brands, advertising, as well as a host of other duties. Florence Dickerson joined Nissan North America, Inc. in 1991 as Manager of Public Affairs, responsible for the creative and implementation of national wide outreach programs, as well as the administration of the Nissan Foundations. In her new position, Florence-Dickerson's duties will include managing, marketing and advertising plans and strategies and developing outreach programs in support of core strategies targeting minority consumer audiences.

Weekend College at RCC Norco

Looking for a better way to spend your weekends? If you are, Riverside Community College has the answer. Starting in January, the college will offer - at its Norco Campus - weekend classes.

Weekend College students can earn a degree or certificate in several different fields, including Computer Science, Accounting, Business Administration, and Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Anyone who is not currently enrolled in College courses can apply to Weekend College. "It's aimed at the working adult," Dr. Brenda Davis, Provost of the Norco Campus, said. "It's a great way for someone who has to work 40 hours a week, to advance their knowledge in their career field or possible help someone make a career change, without having to quit his or her job."

The college is currently distributing applications for Weekend College. Applications may be picked up from any of the three campuses' admissions offices from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday. Beginning October 1, the college will begin accepting completed applications.

Potential Weekend College students who have never attended Riverside Community College will be required to take an assessment test on one of the following dates - October 19, November 2 or November 17. Dr. Davis suggests potential Weekend College students call (909) 372-7003 to schedule an assessment appointment as soon as possible.

"From the response we have had to the initial surveys, I think Weekend College will be a success for not only individuals but the business community in the Inland Empire," Davis said. "We are hoping the business community will encourage employees to take advantage of the program."

Nissan Motor Corporation U.S.A.
Be There For Loved Ones.

Keep in touch with Friends.
Help with a Problem.

Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Gave Us The Power To Be Connected!

We’re both retired, and we’ve had to cut way back on our expenses. We even thought we’d have to give up our telephone, just to make ends meet. But, with GTE’s Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (ULTS), we can still be there for our loved ones and stay in touch with our friends. And in case of emergency, help is just a phone call away. There’s no deposit. Just an installation fee of $10 and $5.62 per month covers our basic telephone service.

We’re so glad we found out that GTE offers ULTS. Now we can stay in touch for half as much!

ULTS was designed for folks with low income. So, if your household income is $16,500 a year, or less, you may qualify. It’s easy to enroll, just call 1-800-846-8611 and ask about it. It’s so good to know that with GTE and ULTS folks like us have the power to be connected!

To Qualify: To get Lifeline service, you must meet five qualifications established by the California Public Utilities Commission.
1. You must be enrolled in a governmental assistance program.
2. Your household income must be below a certain amount.
3. You must be a member of a certain age group.
4. You must be a member of a certain ethnic group.
5. You must be a member of a certain disability group.

To Enroll: To enroll in Lifeline service, call 1-800-846-8611.

GTE offers other services that can help you control costs. Ask about GTE’s calling options.

1-800-846-8611

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PARK FACILITIES.
A Real Life Tragedy

Last year over one million children were abused, abandoned or neglected.

Make a dream come true. Become a foster or an adoptive parent.
Call 1-800-722-4477
San Bernardino County Foster Home Services
1996 Fire Safety & Prevention Issue

INSIDE:
Message From the Chief page 3
Puzzles for Kids page 4
Arson-proof Your Church page 7
**LET'S HEAR IT FOR FIRE SAFETY: TEST YOUR DETECTORS!**

Every year, fires cause nearly 4,000 civilian deaths, nearly 21,000 civilian injuries and more than $4.4 billion in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Smoke detectors are capable of reducing your risk of dying in a fire by half. It is common knowledge that fires occur much more frequently in the homes of persons of color. It is therefore very important that we heed the advice that we first of all make sure we have smoke detectors and that we maintain them. Virtually every major city’s fire department now has a free or reduced-cost smoke detector giveaway program. Many major city fire departments also participate in the “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery” program, in which they distribute free 9-volt batteries to help every smoke detector in the homes of disadvantaged persons. Make use of this information and call your local fire department. A number of fire departments also provide free fire safety inspections for businesses and homes. If you are not sure whether you are doing things properly, then please call your local fire department for this help as well.

This fire safety and fire prevention issue also comes at a sad time when arson fires have gutted at least 35 African American churches throughout the country. Churches are a common target for arson, and because of this, we have included a number of articles on preventing arson, on recognizing the signs of juvenile firesetting, and also urge you to call your local fire department if you have any information on a particular arson fire or on a young person who displays the troubling signs of firesetting. The fire department is here to help prevent needless fire deaths and injuries, and damage to property.

We are grateful to all the fire departments, the National Fire Protection Association, which is celebrating its centennial this year, the National Fire Marshals Association and all the organizations who make it their goal to prevent these needless fire deaths and injuries, as well as to all the individuals who have made fire safety a personal goal.

We are very grateful to Philip Morris USA for sponsoring these fire prevention and fire safety issues, as they have for nearly a decade. It is through their help that we have been able to supply you with this helpful information. Read through it, save parts of it or share it with a friend or relative. The more everyone knows about preventing fires, the better off we all will be.

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**NFPA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS WITH FREE VIDEOS**

By Patti David

The National Fire Protection Agency is celebrating its centennial by donating 50,000 copies of the “Sparky’s ABCs of Fire Safety” video to communities throughout the country. The nonprofit organization will distribute its award-winning videos to every public elementary school in the United States.

“This gift truly comes from the heart of NFPA,” said NFPA President George D. Miller. “In the 100 years we’ve been working toward a safer world, we’ve seen time and time again that reaching our children is the best way to ensure future generations of more fire-safe people.”

The video will also be made available to fire departments, fire safety educators and others for the cost of shipping and order processing.

“Sparky’s ABCs of Fire Safety” is an effective tool proven to teach children lessons that can save their lives.” — George D. Miller NFPA President

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**ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION ISSUE NOW ONLINE!!**

For the past eight years, The Skanner, a Seattle-based weekly newspaper has published an annual Fire Prevention and Fire Safety issue the week prior to National Fire Prevention Week.

Originally, the special insert, which features a wealth of material on emergencies, prevention, fire safety and prevention and a host of related topics, was published and distributed only in Portland, Ore. In the years that followed, a growing number of newspapers expressed interest in being featured and included. Over the past five years, The Skanner, with a grant from Philip Morris, U.S.A., has published these special issues in 17 cities across the country.

We are proud to bring our fire safety and prevention issue to the Internet, to increase the fire and safety awareness and to make the information available nationwide.

We urge everyone to spread the message of fire safety. If you are interested in “localized” hard copies for the individual cities, they can be obtained by contacting the following newspapers.

Portland, OR: The Skanner
Seattle: The Skanner
Oakland: The Post
Los Angeles: L.A. Observer
Riverside: The Black Voice
Atlanta: The Atlanta Inquirer
Dallas: The Dallas Weekly
Pittsburgh: Renaissance News
Philadelphia: The Observer
Detroit: Michigan Chronicle
Cincinnati: Cincinnati Herald
Cleveland: Cleveland Call and Post
Boston: The Banner
Newark: City News

(*Miami: The Miami Times
New York: New York Daily Challenger
Philadelphia: The Philadelphia Inquirer
Denver: The Denver Times)

(“Denotes issues which have Hispanic versions in addition to English versions.

**If you would like to request more copies of this special 1996 Fire Prevention Week Supplement, send your requests in writing to:**

The Skanner Newsroom Web site: http://www.theskanner.com

The Skanner
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228
(503) 287-2582

The Publisher

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Page 2 Fire Prevention Week Supplement
MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS WORK

By Chief Michael Vonada
City of Riverside Fire
Department

I Association's (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week theme emphasized smoke detector maintenance. Because of the importance of this issue, NFPA has chosen to highlight this topic again in 1996 by adopting the theme, "Let's Hear It for Fire Safety: Test Your Detectors!"

Chief Michael Vonada

According to information provided in NFPA's Fire Prevention Week kit, although 13 of every 14 homes have at least one smoke detector, almost half of home fires and three-fifths of deaths occur in the share of homes with no detectors. Thousands of people still die each year in home fires where smoke detectors aren't present.

In addition, there are now more homes with smoke detectors that don't work than homes without detectors at all. The poorly maintained units create a false sense of security among homeowners. According to NFPA's Fire Prevention Week kit, NFPA recommends doing this at least once a year or whenever you move into a new home. Make sure no one disables your smoke detectors by borrowing batteries for other uses.

Be Prepared for the Big One

By Patti David

Earthquake survival and disaster preparedness is essential throughout the West Coast with the probability of a magnitude-7 or greater earthquake. Practice these tips on earthquake survival and disaster preparedness recommended by the Los Angeles Fire Department Disaster Preparedness Division and the Earthquake Survival Program of the California Office of Emergency Services. Always practice survival skills. Even moderate earthquakes can cause a significant number of deaths and injuries.

If an earthquake strikes while you are indoors, Duck, Cover and Hold.

Duck: Duck, or drop down to the floor. Avoid windows, bookcases, file cabinets, heavy mirrors, hanging plants and other heavy objects that could fall. Watch out for falling plaster, ceiling tiles or light fixtures. Heavy vases are available for anchoring down computers, television sets and other breakable items.

Cover: Take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other piece of furniture until the shaking stops. If this is not possible, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck by covering them with your arms. Avoid windows, hanging objects, mirrors and tall furniture.

Hold: Hold onto the leg of a sturdy desk, table or other piece of furniture if you take cover under it. Be ready to move with it. Hold this position until the ground stops shaking and it's safe to move.

If you are in an office or apartment building, do not use the elevators. Do not be surprised if the fire alarm, bilingual alarm or sprinkler system come on. If you are outdoors, move to a clear area, away from trees, signs, buildings, power lines or poles.

If you are on a sidewalk near buildings, duck into an doorway to protect yourself. If you are driving when the earthquake occurs, pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking stops.

If you are in a crowd, remain calm and do not rush toward the exits. Move away from display shelves containing objects that could fall. Duck and cover.

If you are in a wheelchair, stay in it. Move toward cover, lock your wheels and if you are in the kitchen, move away from the refrigerator, stove and overhead cupboards. Before any earthquake occurs, anchor appliances and install safety latches on cupboard doors to reduce hazards.

If you are in a stadium or theater, stay in your seat and protect your head and neck with your arms. Do not try to leave until the shaking is over. Then, leave in a calm, orderly manner.

If you are in a mall, get out of the main area and into a store along the main walkway. Place shoes and rakes nearby in case of an emergency.

Take shovels and rakes nearby in case of an emergency.

Keep branches and similar devices have muffs and spark arresters.

Trees branches should not be closer than 10 feet from chimneys. Branches should be trimmed to a height of 5 feet off the ground.

Most people who die in home fires are not in the room where the fire starts; working smoke detectors alert people to fire and give them time to escape in a situation where minutes mean the difference between life and death.

Hearing a smoke detector lets you know your smoke detectors are working properly.

Smoke detectors aren't new. The technology has been around since the 1960s. The single-station, battery-powered smoke detector, similar to the one we know today, became available to consumers in the 1970s. NFPA estimates that 93 percent of U.S. homes have at least one smoke detector. They save so many lives that most states have laws requiring them in residential dwellings. So, why is so much attention being paid to smoke detectors?

According to information provided in NFPA's Fire Prevention Week kit, although 13 of every 14 homes have at least one smoke detector, almost half of home fires and three-fifths of deaths occur in the share of homes with no detectors. Thousands of people still die each year in home fires where smoke detectors aren't present.

In addition, there are now more homes with smoke detectors that don't work than homes without detectors at all. The poorly maintained units create a false sense of security among homeowners. According to NFPA's Fire Prevention Week kit, NFPA recommends doing this at least once a year or whenever you move into a new home. Make sure no one disables your smoke detectors by borrowing batteries for other uses.

Clearing your smoke detectors as recommended by the manufacturer. Cowl ebs and dust usually can be removed with a vacuum cleaner attachment. If you are going to be doing work nearby that could send dust into the air, cover the detector. Also, shield the detector if you are painting around it, and never paint on it. Remove the shield promptly after work is completed.

installing and maintaining smoke detectors to outdoor faucets. Make sure the homes will reach around the structure. Place shovels and rakes nearby in case of an emergency.

Keep branches and similar devices have muffs and spark arresters.

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If you are in a crowd, remain calm and do not rush toward the exits. Move away from display shelves containing objects that could fall. Duck and cover.
If Your Clothes Catch On Fire...
(Trace the letters below)

Stop
Drop
Roll

If people are not careful, campfires can start forest fires. That's why a grown-up should always watch a campfire. Forest fires hurt more than just trees. Animals, people, and people's homes can be hurt by forest fires.

We thank the Seattle Fire Department's Fire Education Division for providing these helpful games and puzzles.

TOOLS OR TOYS?
Put a O over the safe tools for children.
Put a X on tools that are not safe for children.
Put a △ over the toys.

Who is watching this campfire?

Help Smokey Bear find the grown-up who needs to watch this campfire.

COMMUNITY HELPERS

Draw a line to match the person with their job.

Firefighters rush to put out fires.
Doctors help us stay well.
Medics help us if we are hurt.
Police officers keep streets safe.
CLEAN THE AIR ABOUT SMOKE DETECTORS

By Patti David

On May 17, 1996, the ABC News program "20/20" aired a piece on residential smoke detectors when children put them out of service. The hazards of these life-saving devices. In response to this, the International Association of Fire Fighters and other fire prevention groups have asked, who really needs smoke detectors to clear the air about doubts the news program may have brought into the public mind.

How effective are smoke detectors? Residential fire deaths have decreased steadily as the number of homes with smoke detectors increased. Reports from the National Fire Protection Association on residential fire deaths show that people have nearly a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire if their home has the recommended number of smoke detectors.

Should I replace my smoke detector? Smoke detectors have a life span of 10 years or older. After that, they may not detect smoke as well. After 10 years of service, smoke detectors may become less reliable. This means that as the detector gets older, it may not detect all smoke in a fire increases. Replacing them after 10 years reduces this possibility.

What type of detector should I purchase? Smoke detectors come in two types, ionization and photoelectric detectors. Each can detect different types of fires.

Ionization detectors are best for fires started by electric appliances and cooking. They respond to small particles of smoke and heat. Photoelectric detectors are best for moving flames and flash fires. They respond to large particles of smoke and heat.

Both detectors should be located on each level of the home and in the outside of the home. One detector is placed outside the bedroom area and one in each bedroom.

What about changing batteries? Smoke detectors require batteries. The batteries should be replaced once a year. This will keep the detectors operational.

Cleaning is easy. Just vacuum the detector at least once a year. This will keep the openings to the sensing chamber clean. When using this product, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure the detector is working properly before using it.

NEW LAWS COULD REDUCE DEATHS IN UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE-STARTED FIRES

By Frank McGarry

In 1993, only 3 percent of the fires in American homes were started by the ignition of upholstered furniture, these fires caused 9 percent of the injuries and more than 17 percent of the deaths in residential occupancies. Tragically, those most at risk from these fires are the poor and minority segments of our nation's population.

This is why the National Association of State Fire Marshals, an organization whose members are the most senior fire officers from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, has been hard at work in its efforts to encourage the federal government to require fire resistant standards for all upholstered furniture sold in the United States.

In 1993, the National Association of State Fire Marshals petitioned the Consumer Product Safety Commission to impose flame resistant standards on all upholstered furniture sold in our country.

In 1994 the Commission accepted NASFM's request to set ignition-resistant standards for small open flame-caused fires and began the lengthy process of establishing this regulation.

However, when NASFM asked for regulations requiring that upholstered furniture be resistant to smoldering (or cigarette-type) ignition as well, the Commission's response was that it wanted to study the voluntary industry standard for this type of ignition before it would consider mandatory standards.

In 1975, the furniture industry, through its own Upholstered Furniture Action Council, established a voluntary program to produce smoldering ignition-resistant upholstered furniture. The industry's voluntary standard has been attacked by many fire officials since, because there is no evidence that this standard works, and there are serious questions about the industry's full compliance with the standard.

California is the only state to require that upholstered furniture be resistant to the ignition of upholstered furniture in order to avoid mandatory standards. The California standard is that manufacturers who make a majority of the upholstered furniture in this country comply with the standard. The California standard is for industry compliance in stores that market low-cost, discount upholstered furniture. NASFM project studied industry compliance in stores that market low-cost, discount upholstered furniture.

In 1994 the Commission accepted NASFM's request to set ignition-resistant standards for small open flame-caused fires and began the lengthy process of establishing this regulation.

In California, more than twice the number of furniture manufacturers sell upholstered furniture in California than before the standards were imposed. The predicted cost increases, in the rare cases when they occurred, amounted to less than 5 percent. What's more, California's upholstered furniture is considered among the most comfortable furniture available in today's market.

If the United States follows the lead of California and requires that all upholstered furniture sold in this country be resistant to open flame as well as to smoldering ignitions, this would reduce the fire deaths caused by upholstered furniture to about 10 percent of the 800-900 deaths that occur due to these fires each year, saving more than 700 lives each year.

Frank McGarry, currently a Fire Protection consultant, was the former Fire Commissioner of New York City. He was the founding Vice President and, from 1992-1996, served as President of the NASFM.
STOP KITCHEN FIRES BEFORE THEY START!

By Frank McGarry

How many times have you just started dinner when the phone rings? Or you're preparing a special meal and your guests are already at the table and what's happening, you smell the bitter odor of burning in the bottom of the pan?

Have you ever just begun heating the oil so the family can enjoy grandma's delicious chocolate chip cookies when you hear a loud crash and the baby starts to cry?

Distractions happen all the time, but they can be deadly when we are cooking. In 1993, cooking fires accounted for more than 25 percent of all fires in U.S. homes, responsible for 370 deaths and about 6,000 injuries.

Tragically, African Americans are more prone to cooking fires than other ethnic groups, according to a recent study. Although the reasons for this are still unclear, the figures showed that African Americans were involved in more than 60 percent of all the cooking fires studied.

The study considered more than 2,000 cooking fires in 10 cities, ranging from Boston, Mass., in the East to Portland, Ore., in the West. It found that unattended cooking was responsible for 75 percent of the cases reported during the six-month data collection period. The study, conducted jointly by the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, found that in these cases, people began cooking, were distracted from the task, and a fire started.

We face distractions continually, but they are critical when we are involved in risky activities. For instance, distractions when people drive at high speeds on freeways often prove injurious or fatal. It is tragic, however, that few people see how critical our attention is to the main task is when cooking—a task which is done at least once a day. It's incredible that cooking fires are one of the three main causes of fires in homes. Fortunately, these fires are preventable.

The study showed that most cooking fires occur on range tops. Ovens, both microwave or regular, toaster ovens and other cooking appliances account for only a small percentage of the cooking fires analyzed. The study showed that men were responsible for 41 percent of the cooking fires, suggesting that they may be more prone to distractions when cooking. This statistic is especially pertinent when one considers that women prepare substantially more meals than men do—78 percent of them, according to a recent Roper study.

Contrary to popular belief, most of the fires—more than 50 percent—were caused by people between the ages of 30 and 49. It had been widely believed in the past that the elderly and the very young were more likely to cause cooking fires. Instead, the study shattered the belief—instead, the age group most considered least likely to be prone to simple distractions while cooking was the most likely to be involved in a cooking fire.

There were a number of recommendations, based on the findings.

First, that unattended cooking be given special attention in cooking fire safety education programs; that special attention be given to safe range-top cooking practices; that adults, between the ages and older 49 should be a target group of any fire safety education programs that focus on reducing the likelihood of unattended cooking; and, finally, that additional research should be conducted to determine what factors contributed to the high incidence of cooking fires among African Americans.

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The Delinquent Firesetter: Delinquent firesetters are usually slightly older than the curiosity firesetters, and may range up to age 16. They usually perform these acts deliberately, with the intent to cause damage. Their motives may include revenge, a desire to strike out due to family problems or change, such a relocation, a divorce in the family, a new boyfriend or girlfriend. Most delinquent firesetters are male and require both counseling and education.

The Problem Firesetter: These firesetters can range in age from about 10 to 16, and are usually youth with other anti-social behavior. Many belong to gangs or may be involved in other crimes. Problem firesetters may be placed in a juvenile home. They can benefit from learning what kind of damage they cause and that there may be severe consequences to their continued destructive behavior, such as being institutionalized. They should be given extensive counseling.

Severely Disturbed Firesetter: These juvenile firesetters are often emotionally disturbed and may not even realize that their activities are wrong. They may set fires in an effort to solve a problem they perceive in their home or school. These youth are referred to specialists and may possibly be institutionalized, in order to protect themselves and others.

IS YOUR CHILD A JUVENILE FIRESETTER?

A 10 percent of all children play with fire at one time or another. How can you tell if your child is a juvenile firesetter?

The National Fire Protection Association lists four categories of juvenile firesetters:

• The Curiosity Firesetter: This type of firesetter is usually between 4 to 7 years of age, and most are boys who start fires out of natural curiosity. Curiosity firesetters can usually benefit from learning that what they have done is not safe, and that there are dangers involved in setting fires.

• The Delinquent Firesetter: Delinquent firesetters are usually slightly older than the curiosity firesetters, and may range up to age 16. They usually perform these acts deliberately, with the intent to cause damage. Their motives may include revenge, a desire to strike out due to family problems or change, such a relocation, a divorce in the family, a new boyfriend or girlfriend. Most delinquent firesetters are male and require both counseling and education.

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KEEP YOUR FIRST AID KIT CURRENT

First aid kits are handy and can potentially save lives, but they become useless with time and gradual use. Often, first aid kit medication expires or is used up. Remember that not keeping one's first aid kit current can make it virtually useless in an emergency.

The following list of first aid kit essentials can help you update your kit or build a new one from scratch. Make sure your kit is tailor-made for your needs and the needs of family members:

• A first aid manual such as The American Red Cross First Aid and Personal Safety Handbook for ready reference
• A box of assorted adhesive bandages for minor cuts
• Sterile 4-inch by 4-inch gauze dressings for minor cuts
• A 2-inch wide roll of gauze bandage to hold dressings in place
• Two triangular bandages to use as a sling
• A survival blanket for treating shock
• A flashlight with fresh batteries
• 10 packages of moist towelettes
• A plastic or metal splinter removal tool
• A thermometer
• Sunburn lotion
• Hand soap
• One bottle of aspirin and one bottle of acetaminophen
• Alcohol swabs
• A lube of antibiotic ointment
• Insect bite remedy and antihistamine tablets
• A snake bite kit
• Include items needed by family members in one's first aid kit. If a family member has insulin-dependent diabetes, include glucose tablets, a tin of sugar and syringes, and a glucose test monitor if one is using the first aid kit as a travel or camping kit.

Survival Kit Add-ons for Outdoor Enthusiasts: An extra item is essential, along with high-protein foods such as nuts. Make sure the kit includes enough water or a filter or purification system. Other beneficial foods include soup stock cubes and powdered milk.

A signaling device such as a flashing mirror or whistle is also a must.
The Federal Bureau of Investigation considers arson a crime as deadly as forcible rape and murder. Unfortunately, it is a common crime. Arsonists in the U.S. cause about 1,400 deaths each year and more than $2 billion in property damage. Arson is the intentional damaging of property by the use of fire or an explosive device. What is so disturbing is that anyone could potentially be an arsonist. "There is no typical arsonist's profile," said Deputy Chief Tom Oney of the Dallas Fire Department. "It could be anyone. When you have to look for are the reasons arsonists would set fires."

U.S. Fire Administration data show that arson occurs for quite a variety of reasons: vandalism; revenge; as a cover-up for another crime such as burglary; to defraud insurance companies; because of emotional disturbance; and finally, as a profession—arsonists-for-hire are unfortunately becoming more common. According to Oney, "The majority of arsons by adults are to gain economically," Oney said. "Business failure, debt on a home or other personal problem, or even just trying to get ahead of the game by having insurance companies foot the bill are the most common reasons arsonists set fires."

Arsonists like to target dry and isolated brush areas, which provide the felons with easy targets for large-scale destruction. They also tend to hit abandoned buildings, construction sites and any building surrounded by combustible materials—including schools, houses of worship, condominiums and housing projects.

Arsonists typically do not want to be noticed—stealth is imperative for them, so they prefer to set fires when there is no one around. Because of this, neighborhoods must have programs that are important—they deter arsonists, burglars and vandals.

There are several types of arsonists, but the true pyromaniac, the person who sets fires for the gratification it brings, will feed a fire. Piles of wood, paper, trash and debris should be properly disposed of. Keep landscaping away from doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for arsonists.

Keep members up to date on scheduled activities. Make sure groups who use the place of worship or its grounds are aware of any fire they are checking into in your neighborhood. Provide a secure and approved storage place for flammable liquids and chemicals. Contact your local fire department for details on approved cabinets.

Keep all doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for arsonists. Choir members should be considered a crime fighting force. Educate them about their role in crime prevention. Let the police and fire departments know about any fire they are checking into in your neighborhood.

Make sure that all fire extinguishing equipment is in good working order. Keep members up to date on scheduled activities. Make sure groups who use the place of worship or its grounds are aware of any fire they are checking into in your neighborhood. Keep the landscaping green to make it more difficult for fire to spread. Fight crime. Make your congregation a crime fighting force. Educate them about potential problems.

Fight crime. Make your congregation a crime fighting force. Educate them about potential problems.

Is Your Place of Worship Safe from Fires?

By Patti David

Over the past summer, the media has brought our attention to the alarming spate of fires that have hit Black churches throughout the United States, of which 614,000 occurred in the United States, serving in 43,080 homes. 422,000 occurred in vehicles, and 1,018,500 occurred in outside properties.

Nationwide, there was a civilian fire injury every 19 minutes. There were an estimated 27,250 civilian fire injuries, of which, 19,475 occurred in homes. There were 1,073,600 firefighters in the United States, serving in 30,495 departments. Of these firefighters, 265,700 were career and 807,900 were volunteer. In 1994, there were 7,700 injuries reported in fighting and fire prevention occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A total of 104 firefighters died while on duty. Of these, 33 were career, 38 were volunteer and 33 were elsewhere (those not employed by local, public fire departments). That same year, 95,400 firefighters were injured while on duty. Of those, 52,875 occurred on the fireground.

Providing a secure and approved storage place for flammable liquids and chemicals. Contact your local fire department for details on approved cabinets. Keep all unlocked entrances monitored. Keep landscaping away from doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for arsonists.

Ask neighbors to watch the building and encourage them to report suspicious activity. If your neighborhood has a developed citizens' foot patrol or crime watch, make contact with them and enlist their help. Have members drive by the place of worship when possible. If any members discover anything suspicious, have them call 9-1-1.

Keep members up to date on scheduled activities. Make sure groups who use the place of worship or its grounds for events are scheduled for these activities.

How to Detect Arsonists

Clear out potential fuels such as leaves, piles of trash and combustibles from storage sites, stairwells and porches. Lock all doors and windows, especially around basements, garages and ground floor areas. Install ample outdoor lighting. Learn the daily routine in your neighborhood and report suspicious activities to the police.

Teach children about the serious consequences of fire and arson.

Give police, firefighters or insurance investigators as much cooperation and information about any fire they are checking into in your neighborhood.

NFPA Fire Facts

U.S. Fire Loss Statistics for 1994

Every 15 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States. Public fires department responded to 2,054,500 fires in the United States, of which 614,000 occurred in structures (including 43,080 homes). 422,000 occurred in vehicles, and 1,018,500 occurred in outside properties.

Not counting those that are arson, there was a civilian fire death every 123 minutes. Exactly 4,275 civilians (non-firefighters) died in fires, down 7.8 percent from the previous year. Firefighters also died in fires, causing more than $22 million in property damage.

Arsonists in the U.S. cause about 1,400 deaths each year and more than $2 billion in property damage. Arson is the intentional damaging of property by the use of fire or an explosive device. What is so disturbing is that anyone could potentially be an arsonist. "There is no typical arsonist’s profile," said Deputy Chief Tom Oney of the Dallas Fire Department. "It could be anyone. When you have to look for are the reasons arsonists would set fires."

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"What we tell everybody to do is to be aware of conditions in their neighborhoods," said Charles Andrews, a fire investigator with the Renton, Wash. Fire Department. "They should form clean-up crews and clean the neighborhood up. They should lock all doors including garage and exterior storage doors and report any suspicious behavior or activities to the police or fire department."

The proper, safe storage and quick disposal of trash and other flammables will also deter arsonists. There are several types of arsonists, but the true pyromaniac, the person who sets fires for the gratification it brings them, is quite rare. Pyromaniacs usually wind up under the jurisdiction of psychiatric review and require ongoing psychiatric help. But they differ from what are known as arsonists of opportunity, who are defined as people with some kind of mental defect or deficiency, who succumb to temptation when materials are available which can help them light fires are available.

Make sure that all fire extinguishing and smoke detection systems are in place and proper working order.

Keep the building clean both inside and out. Keep the landscaping green to make it more difficult for fire to spread. Fight crime. Make your congregation a crime fighting force. Educate them about potential problems.

Fire Prevention Week Supplement Page 7
Although all fires are dangerous and the increased density but also because ties may be higher not only because of fatalities may be higher not only because of the increased density but also because multi-story dwellings may take longer to escape from, should a fire start. Other reasons for increased vigilance include the possibility that apartment managers, who are responsible for the maintenance of a large number of units, may not be as aware of potential fire hazards as a homeowner in a single-family dwelling. It is because of the greater potential for fire and injury that apartment and condominium dwellers should take special precautions to ensure their safety. The Portland Bureau of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services in Oregon compiled the following fire safety tips:

Always work to prevent fires and fire escapes. Smoke detectors are required to protect the sleeping areas in your home. Tenants are responsible for testing their smoke detectors at least monthly. Push the button on the detector—it should beep loudly. If your smoke detector uses batteries, replace them at least once a year. Never disable smoke detectors. Periodically vacuum around detectors to remove cobwebs and dust, which can impair a smoke detector.

Plan ahead. Every family should have a fire escape plan and should practice it. Know at least two ways out of the building. Feel door knobs and doors before you open them. If they are hot, do not open them. Use another exit door. Be sure to close all doors as you pass through, including your apartment door. If you run into smoke, drop the floor and crawl, since smoke and heat travel faster. Choose a family meeting place outside and well away from the building, so that you know that everyone one from your family is out. Fire escape routes must not include elevators, which might take you right to the fire.

Keep things safe. If you notice that escape ladders are not lit, are broken, or vandalized, notify the apartment or condo-minium manager. Exitways should be kept clear of trash and other obstruc-

The very old and the very young are often have infirmities or have difficulty moving, and the very young may not know what to do, how to react or may not be physically capable to moving themselves to safer ground.

Repetitively practiced a fire escape plan allows families to make safe escape second nature and to work out possible problems which otherwise might strike a conversation with one of the residents. They should be told to leave by an alternate exit, if your area does not have an enhanced 9-1-1 system. If you have special needs that prevent you from leaving the building via the stairwells, ask the building manager to post your name and room number at the fire alarm panel or in the manager's office, so that firefighters learn that you need help.

Fire Safety: Fire Escapes for Apartment Residents

By Patti David

Most fires occur at night, when most people are asleep, according to data from the United States Fire Administration. These deaths can be prevented if everyone creates and practices a home fire escape plan.

About 2.4 million fires reported each year in the United States, which has one of the highest rates in the world. About 80 percent of these fires occur in private homes. The United States has more than 5,100 deaths and 100,000 injuries annually.

The very old and the very young are often the most vulnerable to fire deaths. These age groups are more than twice as likely to die in fires, because the old often have infirmities or have difficulty moving, and the very young may not know what to do, how to react or may not be physically capable to moving themselves to safer ground.

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