



The Malm-Cluett Team
 barbaramalm@jennypruitt.com

Jenny Pruitt & Associates
 404-310-5164

Home Safety

At Your Service UPDATE

Volume XII, Issue 4

Home safety is a topic we are all serious about, but we sometimes fail to reassess our homes on a regular basis to be sure we meet our own standards of safety. With summer fast approaching, now is a good time to review some of the obvious perils all around us.

Garage and Basement Storage

Store shovels, rakes, lawn chairs, bikes and other sharp and large objects on the wall and out of high traffic areas.

- Keep pool chemicals according to the manufacturers' directions to prevent combustion and potential poisoning exposures.
- Store gasoline in small quantities only and in a proper, tightly sealed container labeled "gasoline."
- Do not keep gasoline in a garage with an appliance that contains a pilot light. Make sure poisonous products such as pesticides, automotive fluids, lighter fluid, paint thinner, antifreeze and turpentine have child-resistant caps, are clearly labeled and are stored in a locked cabinet out of sight and reach of children.
- Keep floors and steps clear of clutter and immediately clean up grease and spills.
- Keep children's toys in one area and within their reach to prevent children from exploring potentially dangerous areas.
- Use bright lights at the top and bottom of stairs. Use the maximum safe wattage in light fixtures. (Maximum wattage is typically posted inside light fixtures.)
- When purchasing or remodeling a home with a garage, ensure that the door is equipped with an auto-reverse feature. Test the garage door safety device by placing a paper towel roll beneath the door as it closes. If the door opens quickly, your family and pets





will be protected from bodily injury.

- Properly secure shelving units to the wall.
- Use a sturdy step stool with hand rails when climbing is necessary.

Outdoor Grilling

According to the NFPA, gas and charcoal grills caused an average of 900 structure fires and 3,500 outdoor fires in or on home properties in 2002, resulting in a combined direct property loss of \$30 million. To make sure your next barbecue doesn't go up in flames, the Home Safety Council recommends the following safety tips:

- Designate the grilling area a "No Play Zone" keeping kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Before using, position your grill at least 3 feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.
- Only use starter fluid made for barbecue grills when starting a fire in a charcoal grill.
- Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line

to be sure it is working properly and not leaking.

- Never use a match to check for leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.
- Never bring a barbecue grill indoors, or into any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.

With one tornado in the history book this year and the hurricane season approaching, it's a good idea to be prepared for everything. Having a "ready to go" and a "ready to stay" kit can be a fun family project to assemble. Make a list of what you have on hand and another for what needs to be purchased. You can even give children a list of their own to be responsible for.



Ready to Go:

- Plastic/paper plates, cups and utensils
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Change of clothes
- Card with your contact information and the number of someone out of state to call
- Small first aid kit
- Personal identification card
- Personal hygiene items, soap and hand sanitizer
- Store medicine you usually take near your "Ready to Go" kit

Ready to Stay (Same as above with a few additions):

- Three gallons of water for each family member
- Canned food and snacks for at least three days and a manual can opener
- Pet food and supplies for three days
- Toilet paper
- Non-scented bleach
- Blankets
- Books and games to keep busy
- Paper and pencils