



Halloween Safety Month



Kids love the magic of Halloween from Trick-or-treating, classroom parties and trips to a haunted house.

However, for parents often there is a fine line between Halloween fun and safety concerns, especially when it comes to road and pedestrian safety.

In 2014, about 6,300 pedestrian deaths and 145,000 medically consulted injuries occurred among pedestrians in motor vehicle incidents, according

to *Injury Facts 2016*, the statistical report on unintentional injuries created by the National Safety Council (NSC).

NSC research reveals pedestrian deaths and injuries vary by age. Darting or running into the road accounts for about 70% of pedestrian deaths or injuries for those age 5 to 9 and about 47% of incidents for those 10 to 14.

In the United States, the month of October ranks second in motor vehicle deaths with 3,200.

Follow These Ghoulishly Good Best Practices

To help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday, the American Academy of Pediatrics has compiled a list of Halloween Safety Tips, including do's and don'ts on the trick-or-treat trail:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time when children should return home
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat

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Halloween Safety Month

Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street. The NSC offers the following safety tips for parents – and anyone who plans to be on the road during trick-or-treat hours:

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing

Trick-or-Treating

- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home
- Teach your children to never enter a stranger's home

Costumes

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags to make sure they are visible
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation



Great American Shakeout

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, in Cooperation with FEMA Region III, is urging all Government Agencies in the Commonwealth to participate in the ***Great Shakeout 2017***.



On **October 19th at 10:19 a.m.** millions of people in schools, businesses, government offices, organizations, and households will practice "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" and other aspects of their emergency plan in *Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills* worldwide, including the *Great Northeast ShakeOut*. We request your partnership in promoting awareness and participation—even if your area has fewer earthquakes than elsewhere. All people in the Northeast may travel or move to higher-risk areas and need to know how to be safe when the earth shakes.

Many schools, religious groups, care facilities, and other agencies register their total number of students, staff, congregation, and employees. In addition, they use the *ShakeOut* as an opportunity to exercise their emergency plan, raise awareness of their own preparedness activities, build partnerships with other organizations, and track the success of their outreach. Some have created their own materials that have become models for use by others.

Follow these simple instructions to help you coordinate *ShakeOut* participation in your organizations, so that more people in our region will be prepared to survive and recover!

Step 1— Register: Register at www.shakeout.org/northeast/register/

Step 2— Promote: We encourage you to involve support organizations and local first responders, community emergency response teams and auxiliary communications service personnel.

Posters, flyers, web banners, manuals and other materials are available at www.shakeout.org/northeast/resources/

Place a *ShakeOut* web banner on your website, linked to www.shakeout.org/northeast/. You can also add a web banner image or text to your email signature.

Promote participation through your social media.

Get creative and have fun! Some organizations hold photo contests, create songs, and give awards to employees.

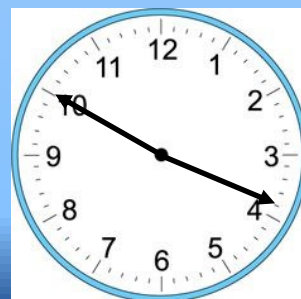
Visit www.shakeout.org/northeast/whoisparticipating/ regularly to see who is registered in your area.

Great American Shakeout

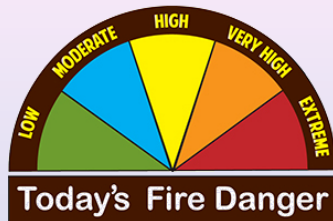
Step 3 – Share: You can add your events to the ShakeOut calendar with the form at www.shakeout.org/northeast/calendar. Events and materials that may be of interest statewide may be highlighted on the ShakeOut website.

Step 4 – Coordinate: Each year county and local governments are expanding their participation in the ShakeOut to include all aspects of their emergency plans, including evacuation drills, tabletop exercises and more. Be sure to let ShakeOut organizers know about ShakeOut media events in your area, especially events on the day of the ShakeOut. You can add your event to the ShakeOut media venues list at www.shakeout.org/northeast/calendar, or email info@shakeout.org.

Step 5 – Participate: On October 19th be sure to join your emergency management professionals and many others in your area as we practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” and other activities. Then share your activities via traditional and social media, at www.shakeout.org/northeast/share, and when contacted to complete a post-ShakeOut survey. With your support, the Great Northeast ShakeOut will be among the growing number of ShakeOut regions that are leading the world in earthquake preparedness and inspire many other states and countries to participate! Visit www.shakeout.org to learn where ShakeOut drills are now being held. Last year more than 43 million people were registered in Great ShakeOut earthquake drills worldwide. If you would like ideas or assistance to help get the most out of your participation please contact PEMA’s External Affairs Office at RA-EMPEMAExtAffairs@pa.gov.



Fall—PA Secondary Fire Weather Season



Wildfires in Pennsylvania

It's officially fall, a time for falling leaves, pumpkin picking, and hot apple cider. While the peak wildfires season occurs during the spring, the secondary fire season occurs during the fall across Pennsylvania. This year, a dry late summer coupled with drying vegetation, dying leaves, and periods of low humidity, can help increase the risk for fire spread, leaving only an ignition source. According to DCNR, 98% of Pennsylvania wildfires are caused humans, so it is up to you to practice fire safety this fall.

Ignition Sources

Since humans are responsible for starting most Pennsylvania wildfires, what are some of the reasons? The most common is burning trash or debris. A seemingly controlled backyard burn can quickly ignite grass or leaves, and a shift in wind can spread fire to nearby trees and forests. Campfires, bonfires, discarded cigarette butts, and fireworks can also be dangerous ignition sources. Parking a hot car on grass can ignite unusually dry fuels. Think twice before taking any of these actions and know when to either safely use fire outdoors, or hold off until conditions are less favorable for fire spread.

Preventative Actions

So how can you prevent fires from spreading and how can you protect your property?

- Avoid burning outdoors in dry, hot, and windy conditions
- If you do burn outdoors, always have a bucket of water or hose nearby to help prevent fire spread
- Clear leaves from your property, including the roof and gutters
- Clear out any dead vegetation from at least 10 feet around your home
- Keep flammable materials at least 30 feet from your home
- Replace mulch with rock, gravel or stone, especially nearest to your home
- If you live near a wooded area, maintain a large clearance between your home and the tree line

Get more information here:

Visit the DCNR Wildfire Website:

<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Wildfire/Pages/default.aspx>

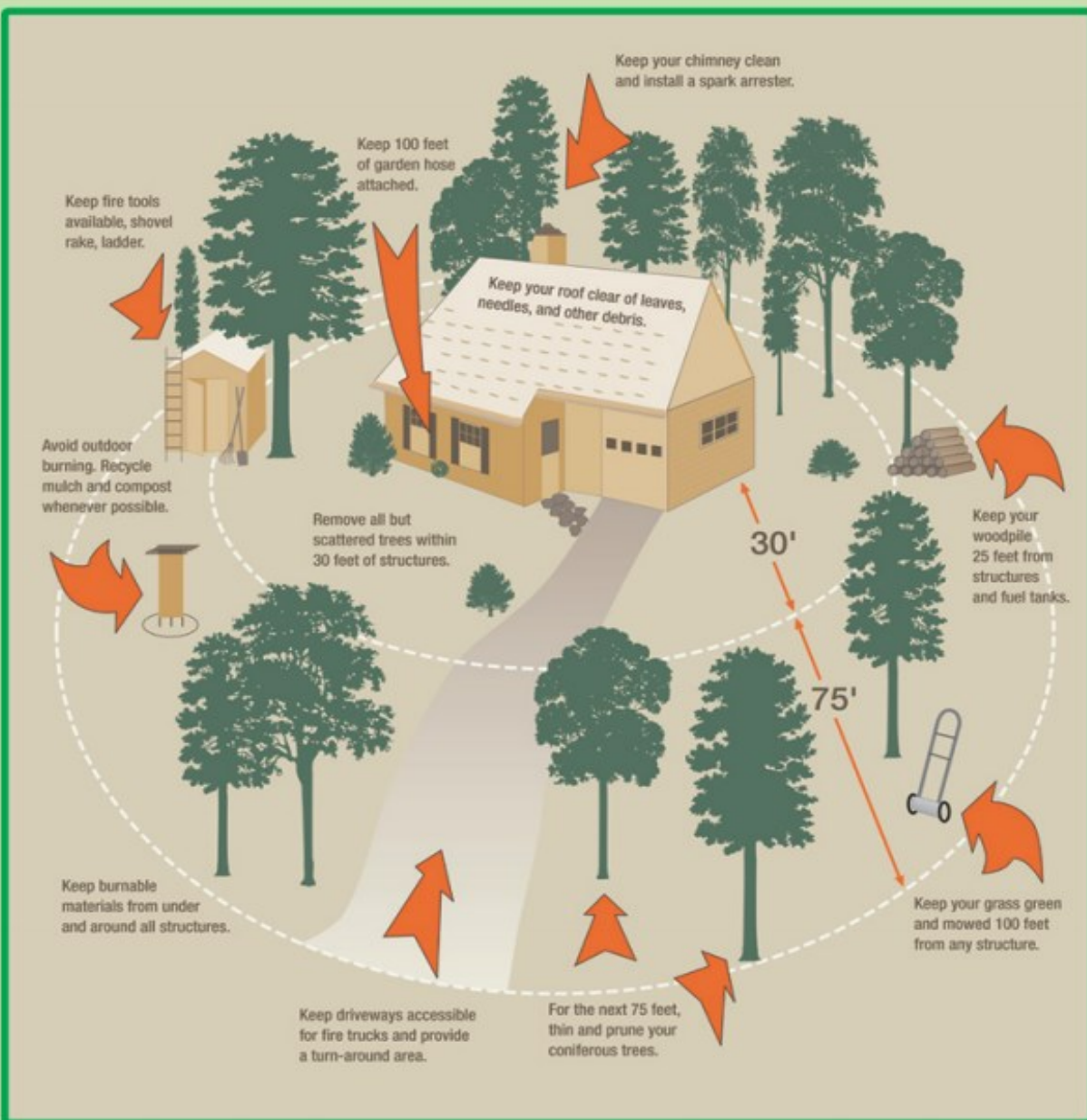
Check out the current fire danger here:

<https://www.wfas.net/index.php/fire-danger-rating-fire-potential--danger-32>

Visit the Smokey Bear website for more information for adults and kids:

<https://smokeybear.com/en>

You Can Prepare!



Federal Funds were provided by U.S. Forest Service to create this display.



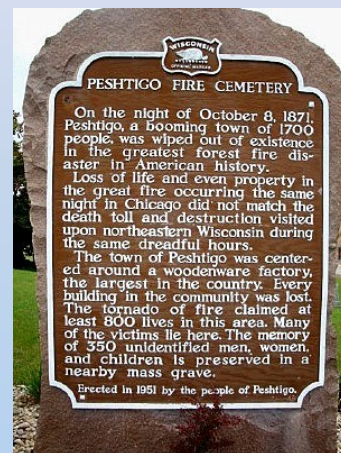
Fire Prevention Week 2017

By the time you read this, Fire Prevention Week will have arrived. Fire Prevention Week is the fire service's "time to shine" as we remember the events of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the destruction it left behind by killing an estimated 250 people, burning thousands of acres and destroying hundreds of buildings. But did you know that there was a second fire occurring at the same time that killed an estimated 1500-2500 people and burned 1.2 million acres?

The Great Peshtigo Fire began in Peshtigo, Wisconsin and receives little note outside the region because of the Great Chicago Fire. The Peshtigo Fire started on October 7, 1871 whereas the Great Chicago Fire started on October 8th. The Peshtigo Fire actually started outside of the town but quickly spread to the town which was considered one of the largest wood-products factories of the United States. Since most buildings were constructed of timber, the town was a prime fuel for fire. There was a key bridge made of wood which would serve as the main entry and exit into Peshtigo. On October 8, 1871 and without any warning, the town of Peshtigo would go up in flames. Inside a tavern, 250 people were killed, because they were unable to exit quickly enough. Others drowned in a nearby river and some even took refuge in a water tank and were boiled to death due to the fire heating the tank. Since bodies were burned beyond recognition, a mass grave was dug for some 350 people. However by October 9th and 10th, the Great Chicago Fire, although smaller, dominated headlines.

Other notable fires occurred over the years that killed hundreds of people and none of them compare to the Great Peshtigo Fire and the destruction it left behind. As I noted, 250 people died while in a tavern in Peshtigo compared to 250 total died in the Great Chicago Fire. It would be years later and hundreds of more people dying in fires that led to what we know today as Fire Prevention. Yet the worst fire in American history is seldom known or even less talked about.

Yearly, hundreds of people are killed in fires. Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania, we are consistently in the Top 3 when it comes to the total number of fire deaths. As a society, we tend to be reactive to an issue only after something tragic happens. We need to become a Proactive society and prepare ourselves so we do not have to face such tragic events. Ensure you have working smoke alarms on each level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. Test your smoke alarm monthly to ensure it works, and if you have a smoke alarm that requires the battery to be changed, change the battery when you change your clocks twice a year. Next, and in keeping with this year's fire prevention week theme, develop a home escape plan and practice this plan often. Make sure you can identify 2 ways out of each room of your house and practice each escape route. Finally, once outside, please stay out. Many people die in fires each year because they went back inside the burning home to retrieve a pet, an heirloom or thinking they can fight the fire. Leave fighting the fire to the professionals. Stay outside and keep your family safe and together.



Peshtigo Monument. Erected 1951





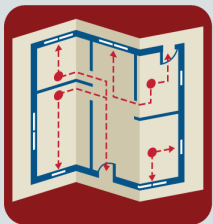
Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!™

Fire Prevention Week | Oct. 8-14, 2017

How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

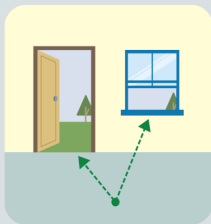
7 steps to practicing your escape plan

1



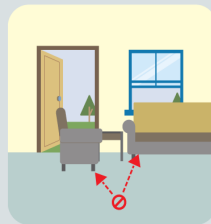
Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.

2



Find two ways out of every room.

3



Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.

4



Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.

5



Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.

6



Practice your drill with everyone in the home.

7



Get outside to your meeting place.

For more information about escape planning, visit:
www.usfa.fema.gov and www.firepreventionweek.org.



The Official Sponsor of Fire
Prevention Week Since 1922

National School Bus Safety Week

October 16 — October 20

Summer is over and that time of year again when those big yellow vehicles can be seen all over the place. No, not talking the holidays and our snow plows. I'm talking big National School Bus Yellow vehicles that will be transporting students all over the country to school. For kids, it is nerve-wracking if it is their first ride on a bus or they are going to a new school, which is met with a groan because it signals the end of summer vacation. For parents, it is either a "whew, another school year starts and our schedule gets back to normal," or some sadness because it means their kids are growing up.

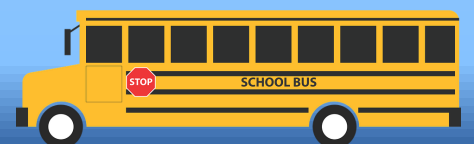


But the reality is that it is time to get back to "normal" schedules, which if you have kids or not, means readjusting your own schedule in terms of commuting and possibly dealing with bus routes and stops. This is a be a good time for a reminder about the rules and responsibilities of motorists when it comes to school bus safety, as well as the laws and potential penalties.

So, quick show of hands: When are you legally allowed to pass a stopped school bus? No, not because you are late to work and your boss is going to yell. No, not because you need to use the bathroom. When you are pretty sure there are no kids coming across from your side of the road, still no. *The only time you are legally allowed to pass a stopped school bus that has its red lights activated and stop arms out is if you are traveling in the opposite direction on a physically divided highway.* What does physically divided mean? A physical barrier must exist, such as trees, grass or a concrete median. If that condition does not exist, even if you are on a four-lane roadway, you must stop by law.

Do you know what to do if you come to an intersection where you are at one corner and the bus is stopped at the other corner with its red lights flashing? Let's say you are turning and won't even pass the bus, can you still go? No, you MUST stop. And if you are behind the bus, your vehicle must stop at least 10 feet behind the bus (think of our trucks and their blind spots – very similar on a bus).

The reality is that more kids are injured outside a school bus than inside. Although we hear of accidents involving school buses, most are relatively few and far between. Millions of children ride school buses every weekday during the school year and statistically, it is safer for them to take the bus than to be driven to school by family or friends. Impatient or distracted drivers who pass a stopped school bus are putting the lives of someone's child in danger.



National School Bus Safety Week

So, you ask, what are the penalties? After all, the fine for not wearing your seatbelt is only \$10 (although administrative costs, cause it to exceed \$100). So how bad could it be? Officially, the penalties are a \$250 fine, 5 points on your driver's license, and a 60-day license suspension. What? You can't get to work if you don't have your license? Well, that poor kid you missed by a few feet or inches might not have had the chance to get on the school bus tomorrow morning if you had not stopped. Your poor choice could seriously injure or kill an innocent child. Let that sink in for a minute. Not only is that child's life affected, but also the lives of their family and friends, schoolmates, and your own.

So let's all take some personal responsibility to keep those kids safe!

School bus transportation is safe.

In fact, buses are safer than cars! Even so, last year, approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses.

More often than not, these deaths and injuries didn't occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

Stay away from the bus until it comes to a **complete stop** and the driver signals you to enter.

Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's ok to approach.

Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.

Have a safe place to wait for your bus, **away from traffic and the street.**

Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do.

When being dropped off, exit the bus and **walk ten giant steps away** from the bus.

Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.

Protect yourself and watch out!



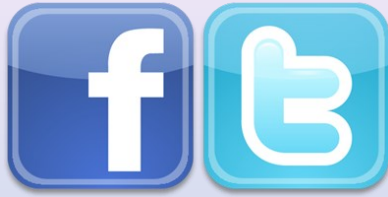
www.penndot.gov



www.psp.pa.gov

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

www.pema.pa.gov

Preparedness Events in October

Halloween Safety Month

www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/halloween-safety.aspx

National Animal Safety and Prevention Month

www.dog.com

Great American Shakeout—October 19th

www.nsc.org

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month

Nation Fire Prevention Week - October 8th through the 14th

www.nfpa.org/fpw?cmp=fpw0917

National School Bus Safety Week—October 16th through the 20th

www.napt.org

Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: www.pema.pa.gov

ReadyPA: www.Ready.PA.gov

SERVPA: www.Serv.PA.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

Office of the State Fire Commissioner: <http://www.osfc.pa.gov>

PA State Animal Response Team: www.pasart.us

PA511Connect: www.511pa.com

Pennsylvania State Police: www.psp.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation: www.penndot.gov