

The Catholic Mutual Connection

Dedicated to Fire Prevention

October is Fire Prevention Month and, more specifically, Fire Prevention Week kicks off on Sunday, October 6th. According to the National Fire Protection Association, there are more than 1.6 million fires reported in the U.S. every year. In 2017, fires were responsible for more than \$23 billion in property loss, as well as thousands of death and injuries. Churches are just as vulnerable to fire risk as other buildings—if not more so due to open



flames from candles, priceless art and textiles, older structures and equipment in some cases, and other factors. The good news is that many fires are preventable, and there is no time like the present to be sure that everyone is up to speed on best practices, including our [Fire Prevention Checklist](#). It is also essential that everyone in the building is familiar with fire drill procedures. Schools are required to conduct fire drills every year, but religious education classes should also conduct drills according to the procedures listed [here](#). Additionally, the document entitled [Escape From Fire Wherever You Are](#) in our CARES library provides guidelines that everyone needs to know in the event of a fire. We also encourage everyone to check out, and share, the Fire Safety Video in [CMGConnect](#).

Safety Tip

As the weather gets cooler, space heaters come in handy in many situations. However, they can also be a fire hazard. In fact, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires each year are associated with the use of space heaters. In order to ensure that space heaters are being properly utilized in your facility, please review [these guidelines](#) in our CARES library.

Fall Fun Without Folly

Fall is a wonderful time for parishes and school communities to gather in fellowship, and there are plenty of festive activities for families to enjoy together. As you plan your fall fun, we recommend familiarizing yourself with – and sharing – the seasonal guidelines in our CARES library, including our recommendations for having a safe and successful [Trunk-or-Treat](#) event, guidelines from our [haunted house best practices](#) and safety precautions for [hayrack rides](#).



Connect with CMG Connect!

We are constantly updating our helpful trainings on CMG Connect to ensure that CMG members have the information they need to minimize their risk exposure and keep the members of our Church family free from harm. Please don't forget to check [CMG Connect](#) regularly for timely new content... and please don't hesitate to share it with others who would benefit from the information.

To view this newsletter on our website, please click [here](#).

For more helpful information, please visit the Catholic Mutual Group [newsletter archives](#).