



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **- National Fire Prevention Week -**

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. October 3, 2011 –During National Fire Prevention Week, October 9 - 15, 2011, attention is focused on promoting fire safety and prevention. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department recommends fire safety should be practiced all year long. Many potential fire hazards go undetected because people simply do not take steps to fireproof their home.

Many bedroom fires are caused by misuse or poor maintenance of electrical devices, careless use of candles, smoking in bed, and children playing with matches and lighters. Most potential hazards can be addressed with a little common sense. For example, be sure to keep flammable items like bedding, clothes and curtains at least three feet away from portable heaters or lit candles, and never smoke in bed. Also, items like appliances or electric blankets should not be operated if they have frayed power cords, and electrical outlets should never be overloaded.

#### **Fire Safety Checklist:**

- Install and maintain a working smoke alarm outside of every sleep area and remember to change the battery at least once a year.
- Designate two escape routes from each bedroom and practice them regularly.
- Teach everyone the "Stop, Drop, and Roll" technique in case clothing catches on fire.
- Avoid storing old mattresses in the home or garage.
- Teach kids that matches, lighters and candles are tools, not toys. If you suspect that a child is playing with fire, check under beds and in closets for telltale signs like burned matches. Matches and lighters should be stored in a secure drawer or cabinet.

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department reminds people that the focus of this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Protecting Your Family from Fire."

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