As we welcome in 2020, PPM wishes you an abundance of health, wealth, and prosperity. We would also like to remind you that a few simple checks could make a difference in someone’s life. Make sure that:

1. All smoke detectors are less than 10 years old (dates can be found on the smoke detector head);
2. Fire extinguishers have been inspected and recharged;
3. Old or compromised wiring is replaced;
4. Chimneys and fireplaces are cleaned and inspected annually;
5. Flashlights and battery-operated candles have fresh batteries and are easily accessible for use during a power outage.

Call PPM at 866-459-3344 if you have any questions.

Did you know? Carbon monoxide alarms should now be installed in all apartments and rental houses.

HOLIDAY TREE REMOVAL

Dried trees that are exposed to the smallest ignition source can quickly turn disastrous for you and your family. Contact your local DPW to find out where you can safely dispose of your holiday tree.
Fire Extinguishers - Choosing the Right Type(s)

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the #1 priority is to get out safely. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household and office building should have a fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

Understanding fire extinguisher classes - There are four classes of fire extinguishers – A, B, C and D – and each class can put out a different type of fire.
- Class A extinguishers will put out fires in ordinary combustibles such as wood and paper;
- Class B extinguishers are for use on flammable liquids like grease, gasoline and oil;
- Class C extinguishers are suitable for use only on electrically energized fires;
- Class D extinguishers are designed for use on flammable metals;
- Multipurpose extinguishers can be used on different types of fires and will be labeled with more than one class, like A-B, B-C or A-B-C.

Safety tips
Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, then release the locking mechanism;
- Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire;
- Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly;
- Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle. Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household or office building should have a fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

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