

Every July 15 is Pet Fire Safety Day


PET FIRE SAFETY TIPS


Pets can be both the cause of a fire and the first casualties of a fire.


Holiday and seasonal decor can increase the risks of a fire in a home.


A wagging tail, curious kitty, or rambunctious play could be deadly.


Be prepared and take preventative measures for a pet fire-safe home so you and your pets can be safe in a fire emergency.


 **Consider flameless candles or LED Candles** for every day home decor or holidays and also for ambiance and backup lighting in the event of a power outage, or LED lamps will do as well! Always extinguish any flames before going to bed or leaving your home.


 **Fire pet-proof your kitchen.** Block off or limit access to the kitchen. Remove any knobs from the stove and other dangerous appliances so when they are not in use, they can't get accidentally turned on by a paw or tail. Curious felines will paw at sizzling grease, which can easily send your entire kitchen up in a lick of flames.


 **Replace glass water bowls** with metal, plastic, or any environmentally-friendly alternative that won't cause a possible fire hazard. When left unattended for just a second on outside wooden decks, they can get knocked over, heat up, and catch fire.

 **Ensure that your young pets are safe and secure when you are not at home.** This can help prevent any possible fire hazards. Keep any and all wires out of chewing distance, especially from kittens and puppies! A great idea is to get a pet kennel or to keep them in a pet-proofed room.

 **Post Pet Safety Signage.** Items such as fire alert window clings can help firefighters identify the room your pets are located in, and identify the number of pets in the house to ensure everyone is evacuated if they don't make it out with you and especially in case of any unforeseen natural disasters. Fix one of these clings to the window of the room you keep your pets in when you are away. Remember to keep it updated with the number of pets residing with you and your current phone number—also add a secondary contact, just to be safe.

 **Keep important Pet Safety Evacuation Items near doors and emergency exits.** Store leashes, extra collars, dog crates, cat carriers, and pet strollers near the doors and planned emergency exits of your house. When you are away, let your pets remain in the main living area for easy rescue in case you need to evacuate or remove them from the house quickly.

 **Have a Pet Rescue Plan in place.** Allocate certain family members to each pet and practice regular fire drills and emergency exit points, so everyone is aware of what their tasks are, where they are supposed to go and train them to have their pet's items needed when you need to leave in a hurry! Planning and practicing fire drills will help the family remain calm and help ensure that your pets are not forgotten during a chaotic evacuation.

 **Make sure your pets always have collars with up-to-date tags** in case they escape on their own. Keep microchip registration up-to-date, too.

