



MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Prevention Bureau Mission:

To protect the lives and property of our citizens, business, and visitors, through effective code enforcement by reviewing land development and building plans; inspecting buildings, tenant processes, and fire and life safety protection systems.

The Fire Prevention Bureau Duties as they relate to the Department

- Conduct thorough fire control inspections.
- Recognize and identify common fire hazards and code violations.
- Properly document and correct the code violations that are found.
- Conduct thorough plan reviews for all plans submitted for construction projects involving new and existing buildings.

Objectives

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Tony Konte, our Fire Inspectors are responsible for meeting four primary objectives:

- Respond to calls for service
- Inspect occupancies according to state and local code.
- Maintain a continuous correction for all fire code violations.
- Complete requested plan reviews within 10 working days.

SMOKE DETECTORS

Save Lives

DO YOU HAVE **WORKING** SMOKE DETECTORS IN YOUR HOME ?

THE MENTOR ON THE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL PERFORM A FREE SAFETY INSPECTION OF YOUR HOME AND INSTALL A FREE SMOKE DETECTOR IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF ONE. TO SET UP AN INSPECTION PLEASE CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AT 440-257-7223





MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dear Resident:

We want to take this time to inform you of a residential lock box program we are offering to our residents. Imagine the following example:

We will respond to some of our resident's homes after they have called 911 to find their home securely locked and the resident unable to open their house due to injury or illness.

Unfortunately our only course of action is to force open a door or window causing several hundred dollars of damage in our efforts to help the resident.

Some of the previous options to allow Firefighter/Paramedics access into your home are expensive at \$245 or unsecured where a stranger may find it. We are now offering for \$35, the Roper Residential Lock Box. This type of lock box is hung over the front or entrance door. The Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department has the keys to open the residential lock boxes that you would store your house key inside of. This allows the Fire Department access into your home without causing property damage.

This is a great resource for our residents that are elderly or suffering from medical problems. Please contact us at (440)257-7223 or by stopping in at our Fire Station located at 5860 Andrews Rd. (next to City Hall) during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sincerely,

Your Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department

Smoke Detectors and Proper Disposal Methods

There are several different types of smoke detectors on the market, so deciding which one to purchase can be a daunting task. In addition, some smoke detectors have a small amount of the radioactive material Americium-241, leaving consumers unsure of how to dispose of the detectors in a responsible manner. Therefore, before you buy a smoke detector for your home it is best to familiarize yourself with the detector options available for consumer purchase:

- **Ionization Smoke Alarms:** Ionization smoke detectors are designed to detect fast, flaming fires. Consumers should be aware that ionization smoke detectors contain a small amount of the man-made, radioactive material Americium-241. When smoke enters the ionization chamber of this type of smoke alarm, it disrupts the flow of particles coming from the radioactive material, thus triggering the alarm. However, the amount of Americium-241 housed in the ionization chamber of the detector is extremely small and emits minimal radiation, so it is considered safe for human exposure (unless the device is tampered with).
- **Photoelectric Smoke Alarms:** Photoelectric smoke detectors function best for detecting smoky, smoldering fires. Unlike ionization smoke alarms, photoelectric smoke detectors do not contain any radioactive material but rather rely on an electric current to produce a beam of light. When the light beam is disrupted by smoke, the smoke alarm is set off.
- **Dual-Sensor Smoke Alarms:** Dual-sensor smoke alarms combine ionization and photoelectric technology in one detector. The combination of technologies helps the device detect both fast, flaming fires and smoky, smoldering fires, alleviating the need to install two separate detectors.
- **Combination Smoke/CO Alarms:** Combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms can detect both smoke and carbon monoxide. Depending on the type of smoke detector in this combination, they may or may not contain radioactive material.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that consumers purchase both photoelectric and ionization smoke detectors or a dual-sensor alarm. On their own, photoelectric and ionization smoke detectors have their shortcomings in detecting certain types of fires, so combining the two leads to more reliable results

Telling the difference between types of smoke detectors

By law, if a smoke detector contains radioactive material, it must have a warning label posted somewhere on the product. Most warning labels can be found on the bottom of the smoke detector (the part of the detector that faces the ceiling when mounted). The label might read:

This product is designed to detect products of combustion using ionization technology. It contains 0.9 micro curie of Americium-241, a radioactive material.

The international symbol for radiation may also be included on the label. If a smoke detector does not have a warning label posted on the device, you can assume the detector does not have radioactive material *unless the detector appears to have been tampered with*. If there is evidence that the detector has been tampered with, assume the device is an ionization smoke detector that contains Americium-241.



Disposing of Smoke Detectors

Some manufacturers will responsibly recycle smoke detectors manufactured by their company and later returned to them. This is the recommended option for disposing of old or spent photoelectric, ionization, and dual-sensor smoke detectors. **Note: Be sure to contact the manufacturer prior to shipping.** Below is a list of some of the manufacturers that offer free or low cost take-back programs for end-of-life smoke detectors.

Manufacturer/Distributor	Phone Number	Address for Return	Notes
American Sensors/Dicon Global	800-387-4219	Call to receive a number and return information	Accepts Dicon Global American Sensors brands only
Firex	800-445-8299	Firex c/o Disposal 28C Leigh Fisher Blvd. El Paso, TX 79906	Website address: www.firexsafety.com
First Alert/BRK	800-323-9005 Ext. 2	Customer Service Dept 3920 Enterprise Court Aurora, IL 60504	Accepts up to four device of First Alert/BRK brand at a time. Call ahead for mailing instructions.
G.E. Security/ESL	888-437-3287	12345 Southwest Levetan Dr. Tualatin, OR 97062	Will accept G.E. Security/ESL brands only
Honeywell	800-328-5111	Returned Goods, Honeywell, Inc. Dock 4-MN10-3860 1985 Douglas Drive North Golden Valley, MN 55422	Accepts Honeywell smoke detectors only www.eccustomer care.com
Kidde	800-880-6788 Ext. 1	1016 Corporate Park Dr. Mebane, NC 27302	Will only accept Kidde brand smoke detectors
Sears	local number	Some Sears locations are designated collection sites	Call to find out if local Sears will accept smoke detectors
System Sensors	800-736-7672 Ext. 1	Call to receive a reference number and return information	Will accept "System Sensor" brand only. Asking payment of \$3.00 for each detector to cover recycling costs.
USI Electric/Universal	800-390-4321 Ext. 1	Attention: Disposal Dept. 7A Gwynns Mill Court Owings Mills, MD 21117	Return only detectors that say "ionization" on the back. Only USI Electric or Universal brand detectors accepted. Enclose a note that the smoke detector is being returned for recycling.

If you are unable to return your smoke detector containing Americium-241 to the manufacturer, contact your local transfer station for other options. It is legal to dispose of smoke detectors in a landfill because they are not considered hazardous waste. However, if the waste from your town is incinerated, smoke detectors containing Americium-241 should **not** be thrown in the trash as they will set off radiation detection alarms at the incineration facility and the load will be rejected.

To avoid this problem in the future, and to be an environmentally conscious consumer, purchase your next smoke detector from a manufacturer that provides an easy end-of-life recycling option.

For more information:

If you have any questions regarding smoke detectors and/or their disposal, please contact the NHDES Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator at (603) 271-2047.

Consumer Reports. 2014. "CO & Smoke Alarms" website at <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/co-and-smoke-alarms/buying-guide.htm>.

National Fire Protection Association. 2014. "Ionization vs Photoelectric" website at <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/smoke-alarms/ionization-vs-photoelectric>

Off-Site Source Recovery Project. "Ionization Smoke Detectors." Online at <http://osrp.lanl.gov/Documents/Smoke%20Detector%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.

U.S. EPA. "Buying a Smoke Detector" website at http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/sources/smoke_buying.html.

U.S. EPA. "Government Requirements" website at http://www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/sources/smoke_govt.html.

U.S. Fire Administration. 2009. "Disposal of Fire/Smoke Detectors." *Tech Talk*. Volume 1, Number 2: December 2009. Online at http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/techtalk/techtalk_v1n2_1209.pdf.

With the weather starting to turn cold, the Mentor on the Lake Fire Dept. would like to share some heating safety tips with you.

ESFI Heat Your Home Safely

32% of home heating fires are caused by space heaters.

MORE HOME FIRES OCCUR during the cold winter months than at any other time of year.

Make Sure to Follow These Important Tips Before You Plug In

- PLACE** space heaters on a flat, level surface, away from high-traffic areas.
- PLUG** a space heater directly into an outlet and avoid using an extension cord.
- NEVER LEAVE** space heaters unattended.
- ONLY USE** space heaters with the certification label of a nationally recognized testing lab.
- DON'T USE** a space heater if the plug is broken or the cord is frayed, worn or damaged.

Four Home Heating Tips to Live By

- 1 KEEP ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN** at least three feet away from a heating source. **3ft**
- 2 HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM** inspected annually.
- 3 KEEP VENTS CLEAR** of dust and debris.
- 4 INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)** alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.

www.esfi.org facebook.com/ESFI.org twitter.com/ESFI.org

Heating Safety NFPA Tip Sheet



The MOL Fire Prevention Bureau reminds residents to use care during the winter months when using a fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater to heat their home. [Click Here](#) to link to a printable Heating Safety Tips Sheet published by NFPA.

CITY of
MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE

5860 ANDREWS ROAD - MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE, OHIO 44060



Department of Fire
Fire Prevention Bureau

Mentor on the Lake Fire Department

Open Burning Policy

New fire codes have been adopted that do permit certain types of fires without permits. Any fire other than this requires a permit from the Ohio EPA and the Mentor on the Lake Fire Prevention Bureau. The fire is described as a recreational fire and must be conducted as:

1. The fire can NOT be any bigger than 3 feet in diameter and must be **on property that you own**
2. The fire can NOT be larger than 2 feet high

“**Recreational fire.**” An outdoor fire burning materials **other than rubbish** where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit and has a total fuel area of 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.”

The Mentor on the Lake Fire Department has deemed that the only acceptable material for a fire is cut, seasoned fire wood. This would include drift wood on the beach that has been dried and cut to the length to fit in the dimensions above.

3. The fire must be 25 feet from any structure or combustible material

“**307.3.2 Recreational fires.** Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.”

4. The fire may not produce any objectionable odors

“**307.2.2 Prohibited open burning.** Open burning that will be offensive or objectionable because of smoke or odor emissions when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous shall be prohibited. The fire code official is authorized to order the extinguishment by the permit holder or the fire department of open burning.”

5. There must be somebody in attendance at all times and there must be an approved method of extinguishment.

“**(4)307.4 Attendance.** Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with *paragraph (F)(906) of rule 1301:7-7-09 of the Administrative Code* with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.”

Please feel free to contact The Mentor on the Lake Fire Prevention Bureau if you have any questions, 440-257-7183.