



BARBADOS FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION

A firefighter in full gear, including a yellow helmet and a green air tank with "MSA" branding, is shown in profile, using a hose to spray water. The background is a blurred scene of a fire with bright orange and yellow flames and thick white smoke.

FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION HANDBOOK

2017 EDITION



BARBADOS FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION



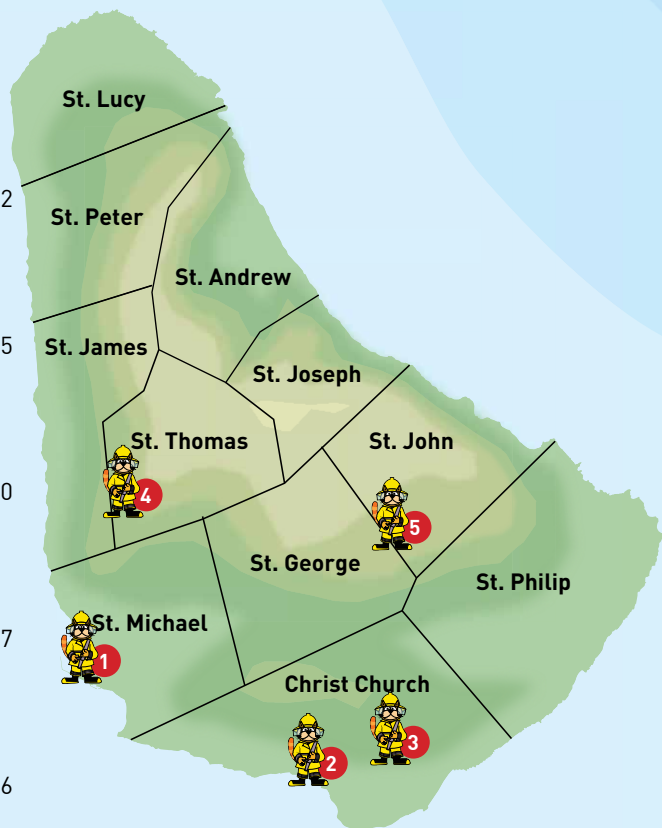
FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION HANDBOOK

2017 edition



Barbados Fire Service Stations

- 1** **Bridgetown**
Probyn Street,
Bridgetown,
St. Michael
Barbados BB11122
- 2** **Worthing**
Worthing,
Christ Church
Barbados BB13155
- 3** **Airport**
Seawell,
Christ Church
Barbados BB17110
- 4** **Arch Hall**
Arch Hall,
St. Thomas
Barbados BB22017
- 5** **Four Roads**
Four Roads,
St. John
Barbados BB20026



Four Roads Station Personnel



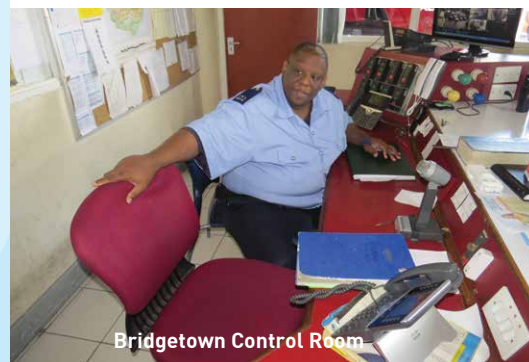
Barbados Fire Academy Instructors



Airport Station Personnel



Airport Control Room



Bridgetown Control Room



Worthing Station Personnel



Bridgetown Station Personnel

IN CASE OF A FIRE EMERGENCY CALL

311 or 535-7800 (PBX)

Barbados Fire Service Headquarters

Level 5, General Post Office Building
Cheapside, Bridgetown, St. Michael, Barbados BB11000

List other important/emergency numbers for quick reference:



First, I wish to congratulate the Barbados Fire Service Association for continuing with their initiative to create another volume of their Fire Prevention Handbook, as it shows their commitment and zeal to ensure that every Barbadian is made aware of fire and life safety practices that can create a safer workplace and home environment for every citizen.

Secondly, I thank the members of the Association and Kainos Creative Studios for joining forces in the fight to create a fire safe Barbados. Fire prevention is the responsibility of not only every fire officer but every Barbadian, and it speaks volumes to me as Chief Fire Officer that my officers have not kept the fight against the scourge of fire within themselves, but have gone a step further to have vital lifesaving information compiled into these booklets.



Finally, I encourage the Association to continue their efforts in bringing this much needed information to the public; I sincerely hope that more partnerships between the Fire Service and private sector companies can be forged not only to create life-saving information, but to build longstanding professional relationships that will benefit the people who matter, that is, the public we serve.

E. Maynard

Errol Maynard, Chief Fire Officer
Barbados Fire Service

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BARBADOS FIRE SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Worthing Fire Station. Worthing, Christ Church BB13155. Barbados

Dear Reader:

Welcome to the 2017 edition of the BFSA's Fire Safety & Prevention Handbook.

Our primary desire is for the Barbados Fire Service to remain relevant as it relates to educating the Barbadian public about fire safety and prevention. The Fire Service provides a valuable service to the nation and its citizens on a daily basis. However, measures such as this handbook are just one of the many ways



the BFSA is undertaking to empower the people of Barbados - helping each one understand 'How YOU Can protect yourselves, your family, your homes, your job and property!'

This will be achieved through the continual education of Barbadians in the daily practices of fire prevention, awareness and safety. The BFSA is tirelessly working towards imparting this knowledge to all, to have a desire to be a part of change. This education and re-education is the key to seeing successful relationships established and grown. This book provides relatable home and business based information that can easily be assimilated into one's day to day living and working routines.

The fire fighters whom the BFSA represents are your neighbours, friends and fellow citizens; their object is to develop policies and programs that will foster safer environments for everyone. Along with educating our public, school children, employers and employees, the BFSA has set about to partner with major corporations, community centres and individual stakeholders to ensure that the Barbadian public and the firefighters under their tenure have the necessary training, equipment and information to safely execute plans of action and preserve their lives and environs. We are ensuring that we all can play a part in the safe guarding and prevention of the possibility of fire.



Photo: Wendie Teppett

As Chairman of the BFSA, I am working with my team to see this become a reality. For now, we continue to make every effort to educate, inform, empower and interact with our fellow citizens to build a society that is well equipped to prevent the possible disaster of fire.

Now to our sponsors and community stakeholders: Thank you for partnering with the Barbados Fire Service Association in our major fundraising initiative—publication of our annual Fire Safety and Prevention Handbook—new and improved with locally relevant tips and information, and an upgraded design incorporating familiar scenes and faces.

Your donation is sincerely appreciated as it has gone towards getting these manuals into the hands of home owners, employees, senior citizens and students islandwide.





Meet the BFSA Committee 2016/7

Seated: F/O 306 Corrie Bridgeman – Chairman; From left: F/O 157 Adrian Brome – Station Rep. Arch Hall, F/O 326 Neil Small – Asst. Secretary Treasurer, F/O 328 Kevin Sobers – Secretary, F/O 146 Melissa Bishop. (IMG_5144).

Absent: F/O 155 Russell Brathwaite – Vice Chairman, F/O 239 Kim Brathwaite – Treasurer, F/O 303 Damian Bayne – Station Rep. Bridgetown, F/O 304 Dale Brathwaite – Floor Member, LF/O119 Grantley Greene – Floor Member

It also assists us with our other community ventures throughout the year: member training programs and workshops, minor refurbishments of elderly care facilities, health and wellness fairs and educational children’s parties, for example. These free manuals are being distributed by the BFSA to our sponsors—as well as to other business places, medical offices, government departments, educational institutions and tourism centres—in an attempt to increase awareness, educate, and preserve lives through personal empowerment!

As a non-profit service organisation, our efforts are significantly advanced by your support at the community-level, both practically and tangibly. Thank you for your invaluable assistance this year and we look forward to your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Corrie Bridgeman
Corrie Bridgeman, Chairman, BFSA

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HELPFUL TIPS

- Always light the match or igniter **BEFORE** turning on the gas when lighting the appliance.
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- Always make sure the cylinder is in a safe, well ventilated area. Do not store the cylinder in a cupboard.
- When replacing a regulator, **ALWAYS** turn off and remove it **BEFORE** connecting a new one.
- Always transport and place your Rubigas cylinders in an up-right position.



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Fire Service Activities Calendar

FIRE, FAMILY, FRIENDS & FITNESS September 24-30 and October 1-7, 2017

FIRE SERVICE WEEK

Sunday, September 24th

09:00 a.m. - "Fall In For Roll Call"
Church Service, Messiah House,
Massiah Street, St. John.

04:00 p.m. - "Fire Burning, Come Quick"
Fire Service Hike/Run & Walk, starting
at Bay Street.

Monday, September 25th

07:00 p.m. - "Overhauling"
Lecture on Men's Health by Diabetic
Foundation at the Bridgetown Fire
Station.

Tuesday, September 26th

08:25 a.m. - "Operation Stop Watch"
Be a Firefighter for a Day -
Arch Hall Fire Station.

Thursday, September 28th

07:30 p.m. - "Roll Over"
Fire Service Debate -
Bridgetown Fire Station.

Friday, September 29th

10:00 a.m. - "Emergency Special
Service"
Divisional Drill Competition -
Arch Hall Fire Station.

Saturday, September 30th

10:00 a.m. - "It Catch Ah Fire"
Health & Fitness Fair - Heroes/
Independence Square.

07:00 p.m. - "Dismiss To Standby"
Fire Service Dinner & Awards -
Venue to be determined.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Sunday, October 1st

05:00 a.m. - "Foot Pon Fyah"
Morning Hike - Cove Bay, St Lucy
to East Coast Rd.

Monday, October 2nd

09:00 a.m. - "Beep, Beep, Beep!
I Smell Smoke"
Fire Prevention Day at all stations.

07:00 p.m. - "Mass Casualty Incident"
Fire Service Quiz - Bridgetown Fire
Station.

Tuesday, October 3rd

09:00 a.m. - "Fire Proof"
Fire Prevention Lecture - Library,
Independence Sq.

05:00 p.m. - "Leh We Heat Up De Place"
Physical Fitness Evening -
Bridgetown Fire Station.

Thursday, October 5th

10:00 a.m. - "Fired Up"
Firefighters' Challenge -
Bridgetown Fire Station.

07:30 p.m. - "Backdraft"
Fire Service Debate (Final) -
Bridgetown Fire Station.

Friday, October 6th

10:00 a.m. - "Fully Developed"
Chief Fire Officer's Parade & Drill Display
- Arch Hall Fire Station.

Saturday, October 7th

07:00 p.m. - "Fire Rekindle, Fire Spread"
Celebrity Cricket Match. -
Hothersal Turning Playing Field.





Basic Fire Prevention Tips.....13

How To Save A Life.....14

- Planning And Prevention
- Escaping Safely
- Sketch Your Escape
- If You Catch On Fire
- Treating Burns
- Reporting A Fire

A Day At Work With...Fire Officer 106 Patrick Edwards.....21

Household Safety.....25

Reclaiming What Was Lost.....38

Using the Right Equipment.....42

The Fire Service In Focus.....51

Safety For Senior Citizens.....57

A Day At Work With... Fire Officer 287 Natasha Forde.....63

Safety For Children.....66

Occupational & Other Precautions.....69

A Look At The Law.....82

Thank You.....84



This handbook was produced by Kainos Creative Studios Inc.
in association with the Barbados Fire Service Association.
www.kainoscs.com

To partner with the BFSA or for more info please contact
BFSA Project Facilitator: Fire Officer (326) Neil Small
bfsawfs@hotmail.com | 246 435 8112/ 535 7824/25

Helpful Fire Safety Tips:

- 1 SMOKE DETECTORS**
Install suitable smoke detectors and test them regularly.
- 2 BURNERS & CANDLES**
Never leave cooking or open flames including candles or oil burners unattended.
- 3 POWER OUTLETS**
Don't overload power points and switch off appliances when not in use.
- 4 ESCAPE ROUTE**
Plan your escape route based on all possible scenarios.
- 5 IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**
Keep all important documents compiled in a safe place for easy, quick access.



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IN THE CASE OF
FIRE
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AND REACTIVE.

BASIC FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

The following are some general preventive measures which can contribute to avoiding fires in your home.

- Do not plug too many appliances into an electrical outlet.
- Make sure that combustibles are not too close to stoves.
- Never smoke in bed or soft furniture or when you are sleepy.
- Check for faulty electrical wires. Electrical fires may smoulder for days behind walls before erupting into a fire.
- Do not use damaged or frayed electrical cords or extension cords.
- Never leave children alone in the house.
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Teach your children about the dangers of playing with fire.
- Never use extension cords with heating or air conditioning equipment.
- Purchase smoke alarms and fire extinguishers for each floor of your home.
- Make sure ashtrays are stable and designed to securely hold a burning cigarette and that cigarettes are completely out before emptying an ashtray.
- Do not store gasoline or other flammable liquids in your house
- Check all electrical equipment (stereo, television, etc.) to be sure they are functioning properly. All of these require ventilation or else they could overheat, possibly resulting in a fire.
- Do not leave lit candles unattended in the house or set them near curtains or an open flame.
- Do not leave food cooking unattended in a house. If you must leave, turn off the stove.



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PLANNING AND PREVENTION

- **Identify the nearest emergency exit.** Whether you are at home or elsewhere, you should always know the location of the nearest exit. This could save your life in an emergency.
- **Heed fire safety and design guidelines.** Walkways and doorways should accommodate any mobility impairment an individual may have. For example, doorways should accommodate a wheelchair's width, and flooring material should accommodate artificial limbs, walkers, or canes.
- **Install smoke alarms and keep them clean.** The single most important step you can take to save your life during a fire is to install a smoke alarm that suits your needs.
- **Have two ways out of each room.** The most obvious way out may be blocked by fire or smoke. Remember that the smoke of a home fire is extremely dense and toxic, taking any vision, so, if a downstairs room is on fire, a window will usually be the only way out of a room upstairs.
 - » Make sure that screens or storm shutters can be easily removed/opened.
 - » Ensure that you have tools available if windows must be broken.
 - » If you live in a two-story home, you should have an escape ladder for each occupied bedroom. Escape ladders are available for purchase, and they can easily be stored under a bed or in a closet.
 - » Please note, that your anticipated escape route, for example over a bay window or similar, might well be blocked if the fire rages in the room below.
 - » If you are exiting with young children, the parent to which the children are most attached to, should lead the way, as children will be more likely to follow.
- **Have an Emergency Escape Plan and practice it frequently.** Establish a meeting place outside your home/office to be sure everyone has escaped. Every family member should participate in practice escape drills.

Fire Drills And Escape Planning

Fire drills at home are the best type of preparation. This way everyone knows what actions to take and what exits to use in the event of a fire. When organising your drills be sure to do the following:

1. Use the grid on the following page to draw a floor plan of your home with at least two exits from each room outlined. Be sure to draw each floor and put in all doors and windows.
2. Go over all the information necessary for reporting a fire over the phone. Be sure children know their street name and house number.
3. Establish a set meeting spot near to but outside the house. This will prevent someone from re-entering a burning house in search of a person who has already safely escaped. As soon as two people have reached the meeting place, one should call 311. Ensure your meeting spot will not interfere with the arrival of fire officers.
4. Practice drills over and over again until everything goes as planned. Continue to practice drills on a regular basis, at least once every three months. When you move to a new home, be sure to make a new escape plan.
5. Check to see that all designated fire escapes are in good working condition and that everyone knows how to use them.
6. Make sure all escape routes (hallways, stairways) are clear of anything which could impede your quick escape.

ESCAPING SAFELY

The first rule of thumb in the event of any fire which cannot be extinguished is to get out of the building immediately.

- Shout and scream as loudly as you can to alert everyone in the house that there is fire.
- If you have practised a set escape plan, go directly to the outlined escape routes. If they are incapable of passage, escape through the nearest window. If you are trapped on a second floor, break a window and scream for help.
- Do not waste precious time trying to get fully dressed or gather up your valuables. Seconds count - do not search for the family pet.

- If you live in an apartment building, never use an elevator in a fire or fire drill. In a real fire the elevator could stop between floors or go to the floor where the fire is located.
- Teach your family/employees that in a fire they must stay low to the floor to avoid smoke. Passageways may be completely filled with dense smoke, so everyone should practice exiting on their hands and knees while blindfolded.
- Train family members/members of staff to feel any closed door on the exit route before opening. If the door is warm, open it slowly, and close it quickly if heat or smoke rushes in.
- Go directly to the pre-determined meeting place and take a head count. If a member of the family is missing, or if you suspect someone may still be inside, alert a fire officer immediately. Do not go back into the building!
- Establish a rule that once you're out, you never re-enter under any circumstances.

IF YOU CATCH ON FIRE

There are certain types of styles of clothing that are prone to catch on fire. Clothing with loose-fitting sleeves should be avoided when around stove burners, fireplaces and other open flames.

Static electricity caused by some types of clothing can also ignite gas fumes causing your clothes to catch fire. Should your clothing catch fire by either of these, or when making an escape from a fire, follow these procedures immediately:

- Smother the fire by wrapping a rug, blanket or coat around you.
- If a great portion of your clothing is on fire, stop, drop, and roll slowly on the floor until the fire is extinguished.
- Be sure to protect your face by covering it with your hands. Exception: Do not cover face with hands if shirt sleeves or upper body have caught fire as it can bring flames to face.
- NEVER run if you are on fire. This will only fan the flames and increase the fire.



Photo courtesy Nation Publishing Co. Ltd.

TREATING BURNS

First Degree Burns including most cases of sunburn, cover only a small area of the body and are marked by red skin, but few or no blisters. First degree burns will usually heal rapidly on their own when these procedures are followed:

- Submerge the burned area in cool, clean water.
- Apply a sterile gauze or cloth to the burn to prevent infection.
- Never break blisters or pick damaged or healing skin.
- Never use ointments (grease, petroleum jelly) or home remedies on these burns.
- Keep burned arms and legs elevated.

Second Degree Burns result from a very deep sunburn, contact with hot liquids, flash burns from gasoline, kerosene, or other flammable

products. It is likely the skin will be blistered. Discomfort can be minimized by keeping air from the burned area. Follow these instructions:

- Submerge the wound in clean, cold or iced water.
- Apply clean cloths that have been wrung out of iced water.
- Cover the wound with a wet dressing under plastic. Never break the blisters, and do not use antiseptic preparations, ointments, sprays or home remedies.
- Contact medical help as soon as possible.
- Any burns covering more than 90% of the body should be treated by a physician.

Third Degree Burns result from flames, ignited clothing, contact with hot objects, immersion in scalding water and by electricity. The skin will look white or charred and the tissue damage will be deeper and more serious than the second degree burns. Follow these emergency procedures:

- Phone IMMEDIATELY for medical help.
- Do not try to remove charred clothing. This will irritate the wound.
- Gently cover the wounded with a dry sterile dressing or clean sheet.
- If the victim's hands are burned, keep them raised higher than his heart. Burned feet or legs should also be elevated.
- Do not apply grease, ointments or other home remedies to the burn.
- Do not allow the victim to walk.

REPORTING FIRES

When phoning to report a fire:

- Speak clearly and loudly and supply the officer with the address of the fire. Be specific and accurate. A mistake could cost precious minutes in response time.
- Be prepared to provide a brief description of the nature of the fire.
- Keep this handbook and/or the telephone number of the nearest fire station clearly posted by your telephone or in your cell phone so that you (or neighbours) can quickly find the number when it is needed.



Photo: Kenneth Mayers

FIRE OFFICER 106 PATRICK EDWARDS in the service for 24 years

What motivates you to be a firefighter?

"Being a firefighter for me is a childhood dream. It was always a desire and I could not see myself doing anything else. Quite honestly I love it as much now as I did as a boy."

What prepared you for the stresses of being a firefighter?

"I believe my heavy involvement in activity outside of my profession neutralizes any associated stress. I believe that life is about creating balances. My life outside of the profession, positive friends, family life and the satisfaction of helping people work for me."

What duties do you perform?

"I perform all the duties of a firefighter, additionally I am a driver/operator, trainer/instructor and sometimes take command of a shift."



Photo courtesy Nation Publishing Co., Ltd.

What piece of firefighting equipment is most difficult to operate?

“I cannot specify any difficulty with equipment since training with the equipment solves that problem.”

What is the most appealing aspect of being a firefighter?

“The anticipation of what has not yet happened. Every day presents a new challenge; that appeals to me greatly. Secondly, to see people satisfied with my interventions when our service is required really motivates me.”

What is the least appealing aspect of being a firefighter?

“That would have to be working with people who take the profession for granted.”

What are some of the important traits a firefighter must possess?

“This is a really good question. One that I am not sure if I can adequately answer. However, in my opinion really good firefighter traits must be selflessness, honesty, dependability, being a team player, and bravery”

What do you think would improve a typical daily routine in a firehouse?

“Added to what is expected to be done routinely if I have full control some developmental task must be done. I believe every day is an opportunity to get better at what we are paid to do. Also having fun with my colleagues completes the duty period for me.”

What are the challenges that fire departments have to deal with nowadays?

“Scarce resources, The type of people we are attracting from society and weak disciplinary procedures are some of challenges the department is currently confronted.”

What advances do you wish to see in the fire service in the next 5-10 years?

“I desire to see our department build on its successes and really forge ahead with the investment made in our human capital. We have received and are continuing to receive new equipment. I want to see us taking greater ownership and exercising greater care in these investments. There is less money available and training and equipment are getting more expensive. We must show an appreciation to taxpayers, by enhancing the services we offer.”

What is your most memorable moment as a firefighter?


“There are too many to mention. Every day as a fighter is memorable for me.”

FIRE SAFETY TIP
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FIRE SAFETY AND RISKS FOR THE HOME

The following is a breakdown of special precautions to take in specific areas of your home and for certain occasions and circumstances:

Kitchens

The kitchen is a common room in the home for fires, especially electrical, to begin because of the number of appliances located there. It is also an area in the home which poses some of the greatest dangers to young children, in the way of hot burners, scalding water and electrical shock. The following is a list of recommended precautions which could avoid a fire occurring in the kitchen:

- Avoid letting grease accumulate in any part of the oven, A greasy broiler can ignite even during preheating.
- Never leave cooking oil on the stove unattended. A flame can ignite in just seconds.
- Avoid the use of extension cords whenever possible. If you must, however, be sure to limit the number of cords in one outlet. Many cords going to one outlet can cause overheating and result in sparks. Be sure to use a proper gauge extension cord, especially with high wattage appliances. Have all frayed and broken cords replaced. Do not attempt to repair them yourself with electrical tape.
- Keep handles of pots and pans turned inward on the stove. Should a fire start, the flame will be confined to the stove area. This precaution will also deter a child from grabbing the handle and spilling its contents, possibly resulting in a serious burn.
- Never wear loose-fitting clothing around the stove. A bathrobe sleeve dangling over a gas burner could result in serious injury
- When lighting a gas appliance, light the match before turning on the gas. Be sure to turn your face away in case of a flashback from gas buildup.
- Check all pilot lights and stove burner for leaks. To check for gas pipe leaks, wipe a soap solution on the pipe. Bubbles will indicate a leak. Call the Fire Department immediately. Do not position propane gas tanks near the stove. Use only copper tubing rather than flexible rubber hoses.

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- Do not put appliances with hot surfaces near materials that can ignite, such as paper and cloth. Be sure not to hang curtains, aprons or other flammable items near the stove.
- Do not store food in cabinets directly over the stove. Children may be tempted to climb onto the stove to reach the cabinet.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, preferably near an exit and out of reach of children.

Bedrooms

Fires which occur in the home often take place during the night when its occupants are asleep. You will not smell the smoke and wake up! It is for this reason that smoke detectors are crucial in giving you and your family the extra time necessary to safely escape from a fire. Smoke detectors should be installed outside bedrooms, inside bedrooms, and at the top of stairs. The following is a list of other suggestions for bedroom fire safety.


Closed doors usually offer some protection against both fire and smoke from the outside of the room. If bedroom doors are normally closed at night, smoke detector locations within each bedroom should be considered. A closed bedroom door can keep smoke produced by a fire in the bedroom from reaching a detector located in the hall.

DID YOU KNOW...?

It is smoke, NOT flames, which is the primary cause of death in a fire. Of those who die in fires, 80% are asphyxiated by toxic fumes.



- For a single floor home, the detector should be placed in the hallway near the bedrooms. In a house where bedrooms are upstairs, one detector should be near the top of the stairs to bedroom area.
- Smoke rises! Therefore, when attempting an escape from a bedroom, be sure to crawl under it. The entire family should regularly practice sliding out of bed and crawling to an exit.



At Light & Power, we strive to live and work injury free and we share the belief that all injuries are preventable.

Here are a few Fire Prevention tips:

NEVER

- Overload sockets.
- Smoke in bed.
- Use aluminum foil or metal in a microwave.




MAKE SURE

- Your electric wiring is in good condition.
- Your microwave oven is plugged directly into the wall and not an extension cord.
- Your home and possessions are insured. If fire damages your home, insurance may help restore or replace what you lost.

ALWAYS

- Have frayed or damaged wires replaced by a competent electrician.
- Turn off your stove when leaving the house (even if you are just popping out for a few minutes).
- Use the correct size fuse wires if you have a fuse box, never use substitutes.
- Disconnect appliances which are sparking. Have it repaired by a qualified electrician.

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- If you are awakened by your smoke detector, feel the bedroom door before opening it to see if it is hot. If it is, do not attempt an escape through this door. Instead, you should try to escape through a window. If this is not possible then a bedsheet or rug should be jammed into the cracks around the door to prevent smoke from coming in. Then, wait for help to arrive. Hang a sheet out a window as a flag to indicate that you are trapped.
- Never smoke in bed.

Living Rooms

Many fires which begin in the living room are the result of a careless smoker. In fact, smoking is the number one cause of fire fatalities. If there are smokers in your family, be sure they use ashtrays with a centre stand that holds the cigarette set on a nearby table, not on the arm of a chair or on their lap. Also, make sure smouldering cigarette butts are extinguished before everyone goes to bed. Below is a list of other precautions for cigarette smoking and general fire safety in the living room:

- If a smoker drops a lighted cigarette into a chair or sofa, he should get up immediately, find and remove the cigarette. If a fire has started, call the Fire Service and, if possible, try to extinguish with water.
- Smoking demands extra care when you're sleepy, when drinking alcoholic beverages, or when taking some medications. Of course, you should never smoke in bed or when "dozing off" in a reclining chair.

Upholstered Furniture

Many people do not realise that upholstered chairs and sofas contain flammable materials. Fabric and filling material produce smoke and toxic gases when they burn or smoulder even if no flame is visible. Smoke, carbon, and other harmful gases can kill or injure person sleeping nearby. It is therefore important to keep the following precautions in mind for upholstered furniture.

- Place upholstered furniture well away from stove heat sources.
- Keep your family's fire escape route in mind when arranging furniture

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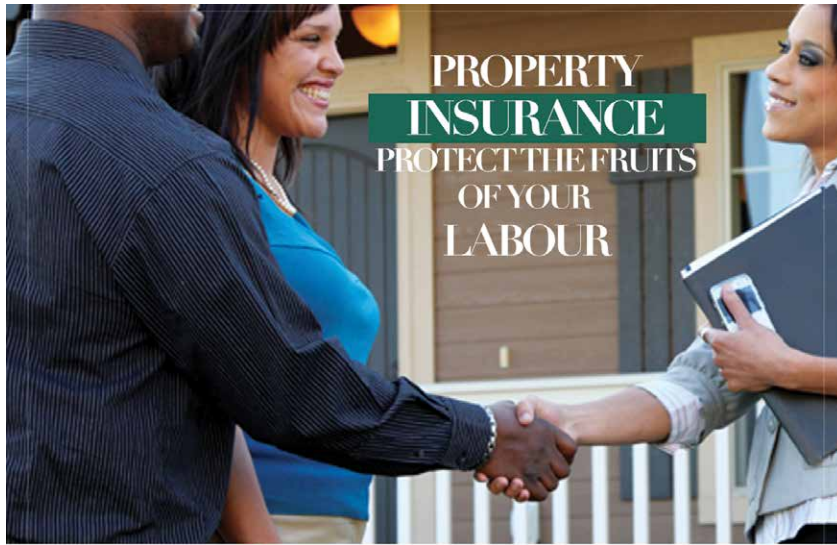
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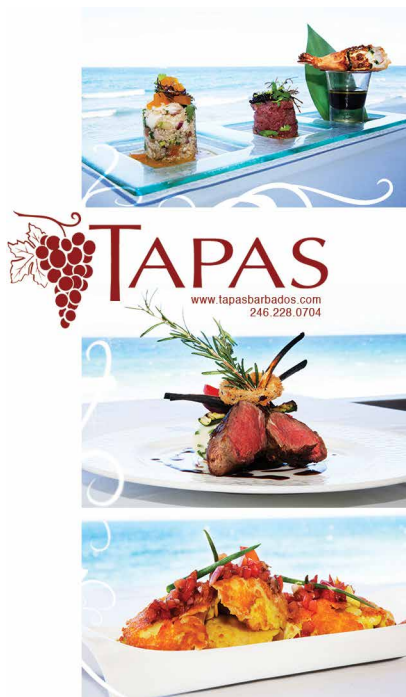
in the living room. Do not put heavy pieces where they could trip a person escaping from a fire through a dark or smoke-filled room.

- Caution all smokers in the family against smoking on upholstered furniture, especially when drowsy or when taking alcohol or medication.

Storage Areas & Garages

A basement or garage can quickly become a fire hazard if it is cluttered with boxes, stacks of newspaper, rags or other flammable items. Household items which are not used should be discarded. Other items should be properly stored. Fire is less likely to start in a neatly organised storage area. An organised storage area or garage also makes it easier for fire service personnel to reach the source of a fire without having to “fight” clutter blocking their path. Below is a list of suggestions for fire safety in your garage, basement or storage area:

- The door connecting a garage and basement or other storage area should never be locked.
- Any oily rags you do not really need should be thrown away. If you must save some, be sure to store them in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. This metal container should then be stored in a metal cabinet in the garage or basement. In addition to oil rags, paint, etc., everyday cleaning products such as furniture polishes and other flammable liquids should also be stored in this metal cabinet.
- Store newspapers in a cool, dry place at least three feet away from any sources generating heat. It is possible for newspapers to generate heat and ignite themselves, so avoid storing them in a warm, damp area.
- Keep the area surrounding a clothes dryer free of combustibles. Be sure to clean lint screen before and after use. Never leave synthetic fabrics, plastics, rubber or foam in the dryer longer than the manufacturer’s recommended time. Dryers must be vented to the outside and plugged into its own outlet.
- The door at the head of the basement stairs should be tightly fitted and kept closed at night. If a fire were to break out in the basement



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during the night, this would limit the amount of heat and smoke rising to the upstairs rooms.

Yard Areas

Particularly for people living in warm, tropical regions where bush fires are common, it is wise to consider the combustibility of foliage used in landscaping your property.

For fire-safety purposes, it is wise to plant shrubbery far enough away from your house so that a burning bush will not ignite the building. Likewise, trees planted far enough apart could prevent a chain of fire from developing if one of the trees happens to ignite.

At the very least, keep your yard neatly chopped and clean of old materials that may readily ignite.


Holiday Decorations

It is a sad reality that the times which bring us the most joy are also often accompanied by tragedy. Statistics indicate a marked increase in the number of fires which occur during the holidays. Too often we become so caught up in the excitement of the holidays that we neglect to practice the most basic fire safety. By simply following the preventative measures outlined below, you and your family can enjoy all the holidays festivities without having them marred by suffering or disaster:

Christmas Trees

- A natural tree should be kept outside until it is ready to be set up. Be sure to set it up in a cool part of the house away from sources of heat. Stand the tree in a bucket of water to prevent drying and keep it watered regularly.
- A metal tree should be lit with coloured floodlights (or colourwheel) that are off the tree. Never hang electric lights on a metallic tree. This could result in serious shock.
- Inspect a natural tree periodically for needles near the lights that have started to turn brown. If necessary, change the position of the lights, so they are not in contact with the needles.
- Dispose of the tree when large quantities of needles begin to fall off.
- Before purchasing a natural tree, check it for freshness. Fresh

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- needles will bend between the fingers without breaking. Tap the tree lightly on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree is too dry.
- Secure a particularly large tree to the ceiling or walls with durable wire. Tie off the tree from at least two points.
- Use only fireproof decorations. Never use decorations made of cloth or paper.
- Do not leave lights burning while sleeping or when not at home.
- Plastic trees should be made of fire-resistant material and kept away from sources of heat.
- Select decorative lights that have been checked for safety by a recognised testing agency.
- Do not use indoor lights for outdoor decorating. Outdoor lights should be identified as such, and should be removed as soon as the holiday season is over. Check indoor and outdoor lights each year for frayed wires, loose connections, cracked sockets and exposed wire.
- Do not overload circuits with lights. The instructions included with "standard" size lights should specify the number of lamps which can be strung together safely.
- Install a switch away from the tree to turn the lights on or off.
- Do not burn wrapping paper or trees in an enclosed area.

Christmas Cooking/Baking

- Check to be sure your stove is in good condition for prolonged cooking and baking.
- Wipe away any grease from the top of the stove and inside the stove after cooking
- Keep all combustibles (napkins, dried flowers, etc) away from lighted table candles and cooking appliances.
- Use approved potholders.
- Cooking utensils should be large enough to prevent spillage of contents



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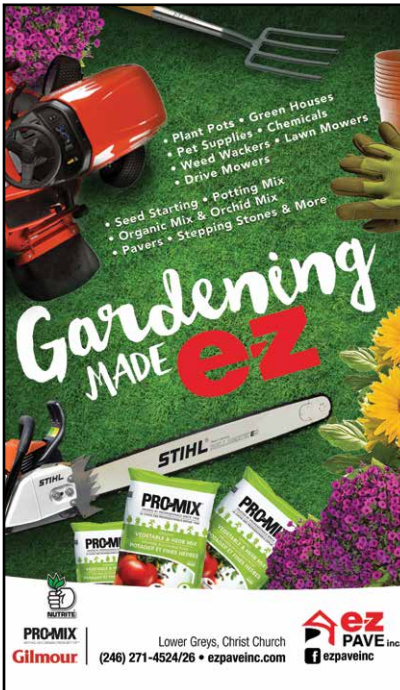
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Barbecues/Campfires

Roasting breadfruit or grilling burgers and hotdogs outdoors can be lots of fun. But you must remember to still practice the maximum amount of fire safety. Too many "small" outdoor fires have led to large, out-of-control fires simply because of neglect on the part of those supervising the fire. When planning any type of outdoor recreational fires, it is recommended that the following precautions be taken:

- Never build fires near trees. Always build on safe ground such as sand, rock or soil.
- Clear away all combustibles/flammables within 10 feet of the fire area.
- Always have a hose or buckets of water on hand in case the fire gets out of control.
- Consider the direction the wind is blowing before starting a fire. Sparks should be prevented from flying in the direction of trees or other flammables.
- Never leave a fire unattended. Extinguish the fire by spreading the embers and dousing with water. Be sure no pieces of charcoal are left smoking.
- After extinguishing a fire, watch over it until it until the ashes are cool enough to handle.



"All businesses should have an adequate number of suitable fire extinguishers that are well maintained and easily accessible. It should also be remembered that both the Safety & Health at Work Act and the Shops Act require persons to be trained in the use of fire extinguishers. It's not enough to have the tools...the skill to use them is needed as well."

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BARBADOS FIRE SERVICE'S AFTER CARE PROGRAM

Should you do your best to protect your home and still experience a fire, recovering from it can be a physically and mentally draining process. When a fire strikes lives are suddenly turned around. Quite often, the most difficult part is knowing where to begin and who to contact. Fire officers can provide victims of residential structural fires with professional advice, guidance and assistance in beginning the rebuilding process after their property has been destroyed, damaged or affected in any way by fire or any activity involved in the suppression of such fire.

The First 24 Hours - Securing Yourself and the Site

- Contact the Ministry of Social Care and the Welfare Department if it was not done on your behalf. The Salvation Army can assist with clothing. You can also approach churches and community groups for assistance with temporary housing, food, medicine, eyeglasses, clothing and other essential items.
- Do not enter the damaged site. Fires can rekindle from hidden, smoldering remains.
- Normally, the Barbados Fire Service will see that utilities (water, electricity and natural gas) are either safe to use or are disconnected before they leave the site. Do not attempt to turn on utilities yourself.
- Be watchful for structural damage caused by the fire. Roofs and floors may be damaged and subject to collapse.
- Food, beverages and medicine exposed to heat, smoke, soot and water should not be consumed.
- Leaving Your Home? Contact the Royal Barbados Police Force to let them know the site will be unoccupied. Where it is safe to do so, it may be necessary to board up openings to discourage trespassers.
- Insured? Contact your insurance agent/company. Beginning immediately, save receipts for any money you spend. These receipts are important in showing the insurance company what money you have spent related to your fire loss and also for verifying losses claimed on your income tax. Do not throw away any damaged goods until after an inventory is made. All damages are taken into consideration in developing your insurance claim.



- If it is safe to do so, try to locate the following items:
 - » identification, such as driver's licenses and NIS cards
 - » insurance information
 - » medication information
 - » eyeglasses, hearing aids or other prosthetic devices
 - » valuables, such as credit cards, bank books, cash and jewelry

Who Should I Notify?

There are many people/entities that should be notified of your relocation, including:

- your insurance agent/company
- your mortgage company (also inform them of the fire)
- your family and friends
- your employer
- your child's school
- your post office
- Fire Service and Police departments
- our utility companies

What if I'm Not Insured?

Your recovery from a fire loss may be based upon your own resources and help from your community. Get into contact with:

- Private organizations who may be sources of aid or information:
- Salvation Army
- religious organizations
- Ministry of Social Services
- civic organizations
- non-profit crisis counseling



Reclaiming What Was Lost

Recovering or Replacing What Was Lost

Documents and Records

Keep a checklist of documents you will need to replace if they have been destroyed, and who to contact for information on the replacement process. The Barbados Fire Service can also provide a general list for reference.

Clothing

Smoke odor and soot sometimes can be washed from clothing. An effective way to remove mildew from clothing is to wash the fresh stain with soap and warm water, rinse, and then dry in the sun. If the stain has not disappeared, use lemon juice and salt or a diluted solution of household chlorine bleach.

Cooking Utensils

Your pots, pans, flatware, etc., should be washed with soapy water, rinsed, and then polished with a fine-powdered cleaner.

Electrical Appliances

Don't use appliances that have been exposed to water or steam until you have a service representative check them. This is especially true of electrical appliances. In addition, steam can remove the lubricant from some moving parts. If your gas or electricity were turned off during the fire, call the electric or gas company to restore these services--do not try to do it yourself.

Money Replacement

Handle burned money as little as possible. Attempt to encase each bill or portion of a bill in plastic wrap for preservation. If money is only half-burned or less (if half or more is still intact), you can take the remainder to Central Bank of Barbados to have it replaced at their discretion.





TO FIGHT OR NOT TO FIGHT

How you react to an emergency can determine whether your house burns down or you or a family member is hurt or killed. Will you take careful, life-saving action or do the wrong thing and make the fire worse? Here's how to improve your chances to stay safe from fire:



NO. DON'T FIGHT THE FIRE.

Get out! Get others out! Call the fire department if:

- The fire spreading beyond the spot where it started
- The fire could block your exit.
- You aren't too sure how your extinguisher works.
- You are in bed when you find out there is (or may be) a fire in your house. Never use a fire extinguisher to fight a fire that wakes you up.



YES. FIGHT THE FIRE.

Use your extinguisher if:

- You've called the fire department first.
- The fire is small (confined to its origin in a mattress, wastebasket, cushion, or small appliance, etc.)
- You can fight it with your back to an exit.
- Your extinguisher is in working order and you know how to use it.
- You know enough to get out fast if your effort is failing.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

To guard against small fires or to keep a small fire from developing into a big one, every home and office should be equipped with fire extinguishers. Because almost all fires are small at first, they might be contained if a fire extinguisher is handy and used properly.

Saving one's life through a quick escape should come before salvaging one's property, so fire extinguishers should only be used for controllable fires. If you are uncertain as to the cause of the fire and are unable to contain it within a few minutes, escape from the fire and call the Fire Service, immediately! Also, before ever attempting to extinguish a fire yourself, make sure all persons evacuate the area.



Photo compliments Wendie Teppett

While there are many convenient facilities (garden hose, baking soda etc.) in the home which could serve to fight some types of fires, it is recommended that a well-maintained fire extinguisher be kept on hand and made readily available. You should take care, however, to select the right kind of fire extinguisher, because there are different ones for different kinds of fires. Install fire extinguishers on every level of the home and include the kitchen, ground floor and garage.

Types Of Extinguishers

There are various types of fire extinguishers designed to fight the three major classes of residential fires.

- A multi-purpose ABC extinguisher puts out most types of fires. It is recommended that each household have at least one. You can also buy extinguishers designed for special purposes. These are labelled (A) for fire in paper, wood, or cloth; (B) for flammable liquid fires; (C) for energised electrical fires.
- Never use water on Class B or C fires.
- Discuss your needs with your vendor. For instance, you may want an extinguisher in the kitchen and one in the the garage/workshop



Photo compliments Wendie Teppett

areas of your home. Buy an extinguisher you lift and handle easily.

Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

The pressure gauges on fire extinguishers should be checked monthly. An extinguisher should be recharged after each use, according to the directions on the label.

When purchasing an extinguisher, look for the certifying laboratory label.

SMOKE DETECTORS/ALARMS

Most fire victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases, not as a result of burns. Most deaths and injuries also result from fires which occur during the night while its victims are asleep. Sleepers must be warned before it is too late to make a safe and quick escape. Properly installed and maintained, the smoke detector is considered one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning when a fire begins, before the concentration of smoke reaches a dangerous level, or before the fire becomes too intense. There is no doubt about it, smoke detectors save lives, prevent injuries and minimise the the development of fires. The risk of dying from fires in homes where detectors are not installed is twice as high as in homes that have functioning detectors.

Smoke Alarms - A Quick Checklist

Make sure:

- There is one smoke alarm on every level of the home and inside and outside each sleeping area.
- To read the instructions. Smoke alarms should be placed near bedrooms, either on the ceiling or six to twelve inches below the ceiling on the wall. Do not place it within 6" of where the wall and ceiling meet on either surface.
- Smoke alarms are tested and cleaned monthly.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.



- Smoke alarms are located away from air vents.
- For maximum protection, both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are installed in the home for the optimum detection of fast flaming fires and slow smoldering fires.
- To install linked alarms which go off at the same time to avoid the risk of not hearing the alarms in a distant part of the house.

Types of Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors work by sensing the rising of smoke from a fire and sounding a piercing alarm. There are two types of smoke detectors:

- Ionisation Chamber Detectors using a radioactive source to produce electrically charged molecules (ions) in the air. This sets up an electric current within the detector chamber. When the smoke enters the chambers, it attaches itself to the ions and reduces the flow of electric current, thus setting off an alarm.
- Photoelectric Detectors activate when the smoke is dense enough to deflect a beam of light.

Power Sources

Smoke detectors also differ by power source. The batteries in battery-powered smoke detectors generally last one year. When the battery begins to lose power and needs to be replaced, the detector will begin to emit "beeps" every minute or so and will keep this up for a week or longer. Smoke detectors which operate on electric current have the power they need to operate as long as there is a current in the circuit to which they are connected. They are, therefore, vulnerable to power failure. Plug-in units must be located in the vicinity of an electrical outlet where they will not be unplugged; and they should not get their power from a distant plug by means of an extension cord. Always use the hold-in clips to prevent accidental plug removal from the outlet.

Choosing The Right Alarm

Since photoelectric detectors react more quickly to smoldering fires, and ionization units will respond faster to flaming fires. you may wish to buy at least one unit of each, or a combination detector. However, because most home fires produce a mixture of smoke types, with



Using The Right Equipment

detectable amounts of large particle and small particle smoke early in the fire growth. either an ionization or a photoelectric detector will meet most needs. Both types of detectors, if properly installed and maintained, are effective.

There should be at least one smoke detector on every floor of the house. Although the upstairs detectors sense smoke wherever it originates, the downstairs units will react sooner to fire which could block escape routes through the first floor. When purchasing a smoke detector, look for a laboratory seal of approval or a statement on the package or unit itself that the detector has been tested and certified by a recognised testing organisation. Such a seal ensures that the unit meets certain standards of operation and sensitivity. Also, be sure that clear and detailed installation and maintenance instructions accompany the model or unit. The instructions should tell you how to install it, suggest where to put it, and provide guidance for testing and maintenance.

Where you put smoke detectors depends on the size and layout of your home, and on where the members of your family sleep. Since the primary job of a smoke detector is to awaken sleeping persons and warn them of urgent danger, the most critical requirement is to put your detector as close as possible to the bedrooms in which your family members sleep. If two sleeping areas are separated, each should have its own detector. Therefore it is essential that the hallway adjacent to the bedroom should be a priority location for detectors. In a house where the bedrooms are upstairs, one detector should be near the top of the stairs to the bedroom area. The simplest rule for placing the basic (or only) smoke detector in your home should be "between" the bedrooms and the rest of the house, but closer to the bedrooms."

Smoke Detector Maintenance

Smoke detectors do not need much attention, except for regular testing and prompt replacement of batteries or bulbs. Follow these measures for proper maintenance and use:

- **Test your smoke detector at least once a month by holding a candle six inches under it.** If you're testing an ionisation detector, let the flame burn. To test a photoelectric unit, extinguish the candle and let visible smoke drift into the detector. Heavy tobacco smoke

Using The Right Equipment



will also work. Within twenty seconds, the unit's alarm should begin to sound. To stop the alarm, fan the smoke away from the detector. Soon the detector will become silent, and you can walk away knowing it's still on guard.

- **Using real smoke is more dependable than pressing the "test" button found on many older smoke detectors.** In some older units, the button only activates the warning horn or buzzer, and does not tell you whether the detector circuit itself is working. Some newer detectors have more refined functional test systems which simulate the presence of smoke in the chamber. These don't need to be tested with real smoke. Check the package or instructions of your detector to see if it has this feature. Some authorities suggest testing every two weeks. This should not reduce battery life significantly. Testing more often than this may diminish your battery's endurance.
- **Replace batteries as soon as the detector begins to emit its low-power warning.** Batteries will usually last approximately one year. Replacement lamps for photoelectric detectors should also be kept on hand so that there is no delay in restoring them to full function.
- **Don't play "false alarm".** Remind everyone in your family that the smoke detector(s) should not be operated, or even touched, except for testing, maintenance, and cleaning.
- **If your detector begins to malfunction during the warranty period, take or send it at once to the store from which it was bought.** Most manufacturers back up their detectors with a service or replacement warranty.
- **Do not respond to "nuisance" alarms (cooking, fireplaces, etc.) by disconnecting the battery.** Either fan away the smoke, relocate the detector or purchase one with a delay switch.



Photo compliments Wendie Teppett



SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

A home sprinkler is less complicated than those used in large commercial buildings. However, the principle is still the same; both automatically extinguish fires. Installing a sprinkler system throughout an entire house can be expensive. Most plumbers, however, are capable of installing a sprinkler system in a basement or storage room, an area of the home where many fires often begin.

A sprinkler system for the entire house has water pipes which are fed by the island's water line. These pipes run through the ceilings of each level of the house. With the onset of heat from a fire, the sprinkler heads turn on automatically and douse approximately 200 square feet of the floor area. In less elaborate basement sprinkler system, the water supply to the house and the system are controlled by separate shutoff valves. A backflow check valve prevents sprinkler water from entering the water pipes for the home. An alarm is also sounded if water moves through the sprinkler, indicating fire.

Although the cost of installing a system throughout the entire home is considerable, the long run "savings" are invaluable. Not only is it a life-saving device, but it can greatly minimise the amount of damage to your house and property. Check with your insurance company to see if it offers reduced premiums for the installation of a sprinkler system.



Photo compliments the BFSA



MULTI-PLUG OUTLETS VS SURGE PROTECTORS

Power Strips

A power strip plugs into your wall outlet and allows you to plug in multiple electronic devices. The outlets in your house or office likely have room for only two devices. Some people think that a surge protector is the same thing as a power strip when in fact this is not true, though in some cases they both appear to be the same.

The surge protector

The surge protector functions like a power strip; it gives the user the ability to plug in multiple electronic devices, but it also serves another very important function. Surge protectors also protect your electronic devices from power spikes. A power spike is a temporary, very high increase in power that lasts for a fraction of a second. These can be caused by lightning strikes (however unlikely), power outages, tripped circuit breakers, short circuits and more. If a power spike occurs while a device is not hooked into a surge protector, damage will most likely occur. Because of the electrical sensitivity of computers (and their cost), it is highly advised that expensive devices are hooked into a surge protector.

UPS

In offices and some homes servers ought to be hooked up to what is called a UPS or Uninterruptible Power Supply. A UPS is essentially a backup battery in case of a power outage so that the server doesn't shut down, but they also usually function as a surge protector.

To tell the difference between a power strip and a surge protector, look for an electric rating. A surge protector will have a rating in Joules of energy, as well as the maximum voltage it can take from a power spike. If you find those numbers either on the box it came in or on the strip itself, then it is a surge protector. Also, if you have ever heard the term "surge suppressor", it is the same thing as a surge protector; it is a device used to protect against changes in current. Bottom line, make sure that your computers and other electronic devices are hooked into a surge protector. It is a few dollars to spend that can end up saving you thousands in the long run.





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About The Barbados Fire Service

The Barbados Fire Service under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs is the sole agency responsible for Fire Suppression and Safety in Barbados. Beyond the rigours of controlling/extinguishing fires and assisting with accidents and natural disasters, our units conduct educational programmes, inspections and other consultative services for the general public and private entities, geared at helping the individual know how to assist himself in prevention or event of a fire.



DID YOU KNOW...?

That the Barbados Fire Service does a lot more than fight fires? Here are some of the other ways these brave and committed fire officers lend Barbadians a hand...

Emergency Services

- We free people from vehicles when there's an accident
- We rescue people and animals from wells
- We perform high angle rescue missions. Think cliffs or ravines!
- We are lead responders for hazardous materials and strange substances
- We perform urban search and rescue
- We assist after earthquakes and other collapses
- We execute low and swift water rescue
- We respond where there are natural gas leaks
- Locked in or out of your house. We can probably help

Humanitarian Services

- We assist the ambulance service with lifting/moving patients
- When there is flooding we can help pump off water
- We provide fire safety and prevention education to schools, community groups etc
- We visit neighbourhoods and businesses to assess fire preparedness or to assist with planning placement of extinguishers, alarms etc.
- We perform property inspections and issue certificates
- We help Brownies and Guides get their Fire Safety badges
- We assist with controlled burning
- We can even fill swimming pools and provide water for livestock




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FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS

Barbados Police Co-operative Credit Union Limited

is proud to partner with the Barbados Fire Service Association in promoting its Annual Fire Safety & Prevention Handbook.

We are especially grateful to the men and women of the Barbados Fire Service whose diligent island efforts promote fire safety to the citizens of our communities through workshops, training programmes and social outreach activities. Their bravery is testimony to the commitment to save lives.

We urge you to continue to educate and protect our Nation.



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"Ensuring Financial Security for those who protect our Nation"



Within the operation of the Barbados Fire Service there are seven units:

1. **Fire Prevention & Code Enforcement**
2. **Research & Planning**
3. **Training & Development**
4. **Information Technology**
5. **Fleet Maintenance**
6. **Administrative**
7. **Sports & Social Club**

Some of their functions are explored below. However, in this edition we will focus on the work of the Fire Prevention & Code Enforcement Unit.

Research and Planning Unit

Compiles and processes all data necessary to the efficient function of all departments within the Fire Service. Records and data of all emergency and non-emergency incidents are kept to facilitate strategic planning and training requirements. Most operational requirements within the department are disseminated through the research and planning unit, from the recruitment of personnel to the acquisition of new apparatus...

Training & Development Unit

The Barbados Fire Academy, formerly the Barbados Fire Service Training & Development Unit, is mandated to develop an entity to provide relevant and up-to-date professional development and training for all members of staff, and fire safety training for the public. This mandate has now been extended to include regional Fire & Rescue Services.



Barbados Fire Academy Instructors

The BFS has been vigilant in preparing a younger crop of firefighters in the form of the Barbados Fire Service Youth Cadets, at the newly renovated and reopened Arch Hall facility which serves as the BFS Training Academy. This empowers our youth with positive discipline that



BFS Youth Cadets in training

Photos: Kenneth Mayers

sets them on a path not only to a possible career, but provides them with tools which will enable them to make positive contributions to Barbados.

Information Technology Unit

A small four member unit that focuses on the success of computer and communications operations through hands on application by department personnel. They build, repair and maintain all of the communications requirements of the fire service.

Fleet Maintenance Unit

This is a unit comprised of internationally trained Fire Service personnel and Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic trained apprentice mechanics that are responsible for the maintenance and repair of all vehicles, energized and non-energized equipment belonging to the Fire Service.

Fire Prevention & Code Enforcement Unit

The Fire Prevention Unit was developed in May 2007 to go beyond the call of responding to fires. Their aim is to make an impact through educating the public about the dangers of fire, and about preventative measures they can employ to reduce the possibility of fires. With this enforcement the Fire Prevention Unit has seen its own development and that of Fire Awareness being incorporated into the workforce lifestyle as a result of the SHAW Act's implementation.

The Fire Prevention Unit fields calls from the general public, public and private sectors. This can be as simple as performing a walk through of your business to indicate where would be a good place to install your fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and alarms, exit signs and other safety recommended apparatus and protocols; or, the types of these or make the recommendation for installation of a sprinkler system or fire hoses.

The Fire Prevention Unit also conducts open forum discussions to educate workers, community groups, communities and primary schools (Student Awareness Fire Education) with the thought that when fire prevention training begins at a young age, it is easier to assimilate this into their daily living as they age and take on responsibilities. This effort has seen great success and very positive response. Another facet of this unit is the conducting and careful orchestration of fire drills for schools, places of business, and most other entities where you would find a high concentration of people and the possibility of a fire occurring. The unit



has conducted hundreds of drills nationwide during 2017 with many more on their schedule. Their aim is to provide the stakeholders with a sound plan of action and to execute this plan to ensure that everyone within that facility is accounted for and extracted safely. This can be a timed drill in the form of announced or unannounced drills. The latter allows for a better gauging of response time and adherence to protocols.

This plan of action and education extends into the household whereby a family can contact the Fire Prevention Unit and be trained in these same safety measures, something as simple as knowing how to use and operate a fire extinguisher can make a difference in the prevention of disaster or tragedy.



DID YOU KNOW...?

Remembering the acronym P.A.S.S (PULL, AIM, SQUEEZE, SWEEP) when using a fire extinguisher can go a long way in saving your family's life, home and possessions and reduce the possibility of the fire spreading to a neighbor's home.

Public education about Fire Safety and Prevention is also conducted at the community level by way of community awareness sessions and town hall meetings. This course has not seen as great success as would have been preferred and is presently under redevelopment by the Unit. So far, they have seen an increased measure of positive response by visiting polyclinics and resource centres.

The Unit has also found great pleasure in sharing this information one on one with the elderly population. They have found that though some elderly persons may not be receptive to the installation of smoke alarms and detectors in their homes, they are willing to sit down and share their experiences with the unit which opens a door for them to reciprocate and share their information on fire safety. With this mutual exchange the elderly persons are more receptive and accommodating as well as disciplined in following through on implementation.



Barbados Fire Prevention Unit

From left: F/O 325 Lisa Prescod, LF/O Wayne Vaughn, F/O 287 Natasha Forde, F/O 10 Tremelle Perch

The Fire Prevention Unit's intention is to consistently educate, reeducate and sensitize the Barbadian public to the safety measures that will aid us in protecting of our families, homes, communities and nation from natural, accidental or malicious fire hazards.

The Barbados Fire Service has placed the protection of the people of Barbados above itself not just because it is their profession; but because they are passionate and compassionate about the safety of the citizens they serve. The Fire Prevention Unit is embarking on a series of outreach programs utilizing available media outlets to educate the public- television, radio, social media, the internet, live sessions and so much more; contact them to visit and talk to you about how you too can save a life.



- **Membership: 40,000 +**
- **Voice of the 50+ age group**
- **Strong representation and advocacy on issues affecting seniors**
- **Successful efforts at lowering the cost of living**
- **Public education and awareness campaigns**
- **Health campaigns and initiatives in the fight against Chronic Non-communicable Diseases (CNCDS)**

Green Tips

MEETING THE 2014 REQUIREMENTS OF BARBADOS SENIORS • BNSOC • SENIORS

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 Unplug your iron when you're through. Get a certified electrician to check your home and/or office for electrical faults.

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FIRE SAFETY AND RISKS FOR THE ELDERLY

Adults over 65 years represent one of the highest fire risk groups. They are more likely than their younger counterparts to suffer from reduced sensory abilities such as smell, touch, vision and hearing deterioration, and from diminished mental faculties such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and depression. When several senses are weakened in a person, the risk to an individual is compounded. In addition, many older adults suffer reduced mobility (disabilities) and substance-induced impairments, such as those caused by alcohol consumption or the side effects of prescription medication, which make their ability to successfully escape fires more difficult. Cognitive changes, or changes in mental functioning, constitute additional fire risk factors. A decrease in mental cognition can often be worse than a decrease in physical adeptness. Individuals who suffer from reduced mental faculties often do not realize they are in any danger and can sometimes even engage in risky behavior.

The predominant causes of fires in which an older adult was killed are smoking, cooking, open flame, heating, and suspicious acts. At the time of fire death or injury and the highest percentages of elderly people died or were injured while sleeping, escaping a fire, or attempting to control a fire. Accidents, falls, and contact with dangerous substances are more prevalent among dementia patients, and for such patients, living quarters should be modified to remove anything within reach that could pose a potential fire risk. Such debilitations tend to reduce their reaction times and place them at a higher risk for causing fires, and thus at a higher risk of fire death and fire injury.

Practical Preparation for Older Adults

- **Plan and practice escape plans**
 - » Knowing your escape plan is one of the most important steps you can take to save your life in a fire. Plan your escape around your capabilities. Know at least two exits from every room. Make sure you can unlock all your doors and windows.
 - » Be sure you know how to open your windows. If security devices, such as bars, are installed across the windows, ensure that they release from the inside.



Safety for Senior Citizens

- » Make any necessary accommodations (such as installation of exit ramps) to facilitate escape.
- **Live near an exit**
 - » If you live in an apartment building, try to get an apartment on the ground floor. If this is not possible, know where the exit stairwell is and plan to wait there for help if you cannot take the stairs in the event of a fire.
 - » If you live in a multistory house, try to sleep on the ground floor. Make sure a phone (or a TTY/TDD if you use one) is next to your bed, within arm's reach.
 - » Keep emergency telephone numbers and hearing aids (if necessary) handy as well.
 - » If necessary, construct an exit ramp for emergency exits. It is recommended that ramps be at least 36 inches wide. Guardrails and handrails should be 44-48 inches high and 34-38 inches wide.
- **Identify the nearest emergency exit when not at home**
 - » Whether you are at home or elsewhere, you should always know the location of the nearest exit. This could save your life in an emergency.
- **Heed fire safety and design guidelines**
 - » Walkways and doorways should accommodate any mobility impairment the individual may have. For example, doorways should accommodate a wheelchair's width, and flooring material should accommodate artificial limbs, walkers, or canes.
- **Have a fire extinguisher—and learn how to use it**
 - » If you are confined to a wheelchair, consider mounting (or having someone mount) a small "personal use" fire extinguisher in an accessible place on your wheelchair and become familiar with its use. Then, if you cannot "stop, drop, and roll" during a fire, you should "pull, aim, squeeze, and sweep."
- **Install smoke alarms**
 - » The single most important step you can take to save your life

Safety for Senior Citizens



- during a fire is to install a smoke alarm that suits your needs. A working smoke alarm can make a vital difference in the event of a fire and may reduce the risk of dying in a fire by as much as 60 percent. A properly functioning alarm can alert you to the presence of deadly smoke while there is still time to escape.
- » Place alarms next to each sleeping area and on every floor of your home. Keep smoke alarms clean by vacuuming or having them vacuumed regularly.
- » Test batteries monthly, and replace them annually.
- » Ask friends, family members, landlords, or property managers to install and test the batteries of a smoke alarm if it is hard to reach. If your smoke alarms are hardwired (connected to the electric circuitry of your residence), make sure they are also equipped with battery backups.

DID YOU KNOW...?

The Barbados Fire Service will, at no charge to qualified residents, install one or more smoke alarms, test existing smoke alarms, replace smoke alarm batteries if needed, conduct a home fire-safety check help residents develop a fire safety / fire escape plan for themselves if they live alone and for families where necessary.



- **Involve the Barbados Fire & Rescue Service**
 - » Ask the fire department to help you plan an escape route, and inform them of your special needs. They can help identify any fire hazards in your home and explain how to correct them.
 - » Any areas you plan to use as a rescue area must be identified and agreed upon by you and officials from the fire department. Learn the fire department's limitations, and make fire officials aware of yours.



Safety for Senior Citizens

What to Do In The Event of a Fire

- **Get out and stay out**
 - » Leave your home as soon as possible.
 - » Do not try to gather personal possessions
 - » Do not attempt to extinguish a fire.
 - » Do not use the elevator.
 - » Once out, do not go back inside.
- **Test the doors before opening them**
 - » Using the back of your hand, reach up high and touch the door, the doorknob, and the space between the door and the frame. If anything feels hot, keep the door shut and use your second exit.
 - » If everything feels cool, open the door slowly and exit as low to the ground as possible if smoke is present.
- **Stay low and go**
 - » Crawl low and keep under the smoke, if you are physically able. If not, try to cover your mouth and nose to avoid breathing toxic fumes, and make your way to safety as quickly as possible.

What to Do If You Are Trapped

- **Close all the doors between you and the fire.**
 - » Fill cracks in doors and cover all vents with a damp cloth to keep smoke out.
 - » If possible, call the fire department and tell them where you are.
 - » Signal rescuers from a window with a light-colored cloth.

Stop, drop, and roll

- » If any part of you catches fire, do not run and do not try to extinguish the flames with your hands. Cover your face with your hands. Drop to the ground, rolling over and over.
- » If you have a disability that prevents your taking these actions, try to keep a flame-resistant blanket or rug nearby to smother any flames.





FIRE FAILS

Fighting fires may have its rewarding moments, but it also has its stresses. The last thing a fire officer needs is interruptions or hindrances when on duty. Here are some tips from local servicemen on how we can help (and not hamper) them when in the line of fire:

ACTIONS TO AVOID AT AN ACCIDENT SCENE

- Refrain from approaching officers in an aggressive manner.
- Don't stand downwind of fire or hazardous materials incidents.
- Avoid going into the hot zone (the immediate area of the incident).
- Do not breach safety perimeters (duck under caution tape and passing through barriers).
- Avoid taking photos of accident victims before, during and after emergency personnel arrive on the scene.

FIRE OFFICER PET PEEVES

- Persons refusing to yield to sirens when emergency vehicles are en route to incidents.
- Persons stopping indiscriminately when yielding to sirens.
- Unsupervised children and some adults making prank calls.
- Parking and stopping in front of appliance bays.



Photo: Kenneth Mayers

FIRE OFFICER 287 NATASHA FORDE in the service for 12 years

What made you choose a career in firefighting?

"This career chose me. Working as a Temporary Clerical Officer in the organisation, I was always intrigued whenever the alarm went off, and once I had no duties to fulfil at my desk, I would make my way to the Control Room. There was always this adrenaline rush. It did not go unnoticed by some officers and they persuaded me to apply to join the organisation. Also being a mother of a young child at the time I wanted a more secure form of employment."

What is it like being a woman in a male-dominated profession?

"Females were first enlisted in the department June 1979; the profession has always been and will always be a male dominated one. I don't focus on that aspect. There was no specialised training for male or female, we were all trained as Fire Officers, but somehow as a female you always have to be on top of your game proving over and over why you

should be here to co-workers, the public as well as yourself. It is said the same opportunities exist for everyone within the profession so don't expect to have car doors opened because you're a female, if you want it then you pursue it, no holds barred. Females are generally seen as the weaker sex, that's why training and teamwork is so important. Once it is recognised that you are a worker, a team player—that individual going the extra mile to accomplish the task—then transition into the boys' club becomes a bit easier. "

What qualities set you apart?

"What sets me apart is that I am me!! I enjoy what I do."

What is the most appealing aspect of being a firefighter?

"The most appealing aspect is going into any establishment or meeting persons on a day to day basis and listening to them giving praise to the officers in the department for their professionalism while executing their duties, or persons speaking about changes they have made in their homes or businesses to better protect themselves based on training or advice given by members within the department. But what really lights up my world is when I see the proud looks of my family and friends."

What is the least appealing aspect of being a firefighter?

"Hands down that would be persons losing their homes to fire—often due to uncontrolled grass and rubbish fires—and persons that do not heed the advice of officers. While carrying out informal or formal hazard audits we find that persons are still taking unnecessary risks too often and live with the hope that nothing will happen."

Why is teamwork so important in the fire service?

"The fire service is probably one of the most hostile work environments that exist, while most people are running away from danger we are advancing towards it, whether it is a fire, motor vehicle accident or a hazardous material incident. Teamwork is critical to the success of any operation, every member of a team has strengths and weaknesses but when these resources are pooled together to create a strong team then we know in many cases that determines the outcome of the circumstance. Teamwork also helps persons to improve on their personal development and it builds trust internally as well as externally for those we serve."

How do you prepare yourself to remain calm and react effectively at emergency scenes?

"By praying to the Almighty for his control and guidance over whatever the situation and I rely on my training. After the job is completed then you find your positive coping mechanism."

What duties do you perform?

"Many!!! Duties include but are not limited to hazard analysis audits, inspections, lectures and evacuation drills. As a Fire Officer I support operations if there is a shortage of personnel in Fire Suppression activities, Extrication, Control Room duties, and I'm an internal and also external instructor."



Photo courtesy Nation Publishing Co. Ltd.

What is your most memorable moment as a firefighter?

"One that stands out is a house fire we responded to in St. Philip; thankfully it was contained to the bedroom and was extinguished before we arrived. The child in question (approx. 5-6 years old) was playing with matches and the mattress caught on fire, everyone was trying to get him to talk and he would not say a word. I remember my then supervisor retired Sub/O (Ag) Seale saying to me take him and have a talk with him. I did, I took him away from everyone and we had a chat for about 25 minutes. At the end of it he went and told his parents what had taken place. I felt so proud of him. Of course I had to uphold my end of the commitment; he made me promise to ask his parents not to flog him but to come up with some other means of punishing him. The outcome could have been different; it was a learning experience for all. That's why it so important for parents and guardians to take the mystery out of fire and talk to their children or wards about the positives and negatives of fire."



FIRE SAFETY AND RISKS FOR CHILDREN

Children should be taught about the importance and danger of fire at an early age. Most are fascinated by fire and naturally inquisitive, making it probable that, if given the opportunity, they will at some point try to experiment with some flammable substance or object. Children should be taught to respect fire; some very basic principles could avoid a crisis.

Teach Your Children...

Not to play with lighters or matches

Children are often awed by the “magic” of the sudden burst of flame from a tiny matchstick or lighter. Help them resist the temptation to play with these objects by keeping them out of sight and reach. More importantly, emphasize the dangers that playing with these items can pose. A cigarette lighter in a car can also be an attractive toy to an inquisitive youngster — be careful not to let a child play with it.

Not to play with or around certain household objects

Stoves, irons, woodfires, and matches are household necessities that could cause serious injuries to children at play. Be sure your children know that these objects are not toys and teach them to assume that they are always hot and therefore should not be touched. NEVER leave a hot iron unattended, even for a minute, if children are around.

Your household escape plan

They should understand how to exit each room in an emergency and know the designated family meeting place outside the home.

To stay low if there is smoke in the house

Teach children to stay low and crawl to safety if they smell smoke.

To feel a door before they open it

Children should know how to tell if there are flames on the other side of a closed door. Checking to see that the door is cool before opening it could avoid spreading the flames to other rooms.

Stop, Drop and Roll (SDR):

Memorizing this saying is an easy way for children to remember what to do if their clothing catches on fire. They should know not to run in that situation, as that could increase the flames.



STOPPING FIRES BEFORE THEY START

One need only to consider the most common causes of fire to determine that all fire is “made by people” and therefore preventable. The only fires from natural causes are started by lightning, and even these can be prevented. Statistics indicate that fires are most frequently caused by such things as smoking, matches, cooking equipment, electrical appliances and flammable liquids.

Matches, Lighters and Candles

Some residential fires begin with a match dropped into a wastebasket before it is fully extinguished. Injuries can even be caused when matches fragment and throw flaming particles while being struck.

Children lack the knowledge to use matches responsibly; yet many people leave matches or lighters in purses, on tables, and in other places where they may be reached by the inquiring hands of small children. Older persons, even with decades of experience, may lack the dexterity to use matches carefully.

Lighter fluid is obviously highly flammable. Great care should be taken when filling lighters to avoid or wipe up spills, and of course, it is unsafe to smoke while filling a lighter.

Candles should be held in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over and remain in the line of sight. All candles should be extinguished before going to bed or leaving the room. Children and pets should never be left unattended with candles.

Safety Tips

- Avoid using matches that appear discoloured or damaged. They may have been exposed to dampness, which can make them more likely to fragment or fall apart when struck.
- Close the matchbox before striking - old, but very good advice.
- Strike away from yourself and others. Flaming particles can fly off of matchheads. Hold the match well away from faces and fabrics.
- Pay attention! Don't light a match while driving or distracted doing something else.



Photo courtesy Nation Publishing Co Ltd.

Cooking

- Never leave the stove unattended while cooking. If you need to step away from the stove, turn it off.
- Avoid loose-fitting clothing when cooking over an open flame, and keep towels and potholders away from the flame.
- If food or grease catches fire, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the heat.
- Do not try to use water to extinguish a grease fire. When deep-frying, never fill the pan more than one-third full of oil or fat. Never put foil or other metals in the microwave
- Make sure the cooking area is free from items that can catch fire.
- Make sure the kitchen stove hood is clean and vented to the outside.
- Pots are not left unattended on the stove.

Electrical Appliances

Electrical circuits are designed to accommodate only a certain amount of electricity. Start connecting a toaster, coffee-maker and other high-powered appliances to a circuit that is already overloaded, and you have all the makings for a real fire hazard. Among the cause of electrical fires are:

- Cracked or worn electrical or extension cords
- Using overrated fuses
- Overloading circuits
- Poor installation
- Defective appliances
- Faulty wiring

The following preventative measures are recommended to avoid such causes of electrical fires:

- Make sure electrical cords are not frayed or cracked.
- Circuit-protected, multi-prong adapters should be used for additional outlets.
- Do not run electrical or extension cords under carpets or behind heavy furniture where they could be easily damaged.
- If a proper fuse for a circuit continues to blow, call an electrician. This is an indication that there is a problem which should be handled by a professional.
- When purchasing electrical equipment, check to see that the product is listed with a reputable organisation.
- Be sure appliances which draw a great amount of electricity have a special circuit of their own. Large and small appliances should be plugged directly into wall outlets.
- The clothes dryer lint filter and venting system should be kept clean.
- Never light a match in the dark to look for a blown fuse. Instead, use a flashlight.
- Keep electrical appliances out of the bathroom and away from the



kitchen sink. Of course, never handle electrical cords and devices when your hands are wet or when standing on a wet floor.

- Some appliances such as televisions need ventilation. Do not install one in a tight cubicle unless it is designed for placement there.
- Have your wiring checked by an electrician before adding major electrical appliances.
- DO NOT try to repair worn or frayed cords with electrical tape. Have them professionally repaired.

Gas-Powered Appliances

Gas has no natural odour, but all gas for home use, whether natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP) gas, or manufactured gas is odourised so that we may smell it in case of a leak. If you smell gas in a room, do not enter with a lit match or cigarette. **LEAVE THE HOUSE IMMEDIATELY** and call both the gas company and the fire department.



DID YOU KNOW...?

That just like at a gas station, even using the phone in or near the area of a suspected leak could cause a spark that would ignite the leaking gas.

Liquefied gas is commonly called “bottled gas”. The dangers of bottled gas are much the same as for pipe gas. The following precautions are recommended for using bottled gas:

- When using bottled gas for stoves and furnaces, make sure the fuel tank is located in a safe, well ventilated space, preferably outside of the house.
- As with piped gas, if there is a leak with bottled gas, evacuate the house and call the fire department and gas company. You should also turn off the valve of the tank outside the house, where appropriate.



Flammable Liquids

These liquids include gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, some paints and thinners, plus alcohol-based products. We use many of them each day without a thought about the fire hazard. And that’s the problem! A moment’s thought should remind us that the strong smell of most of these liquids is proof that they produce invisible vapours.

It’s actually these vapours that can catch on fire, sometimes from a distant or out-of-sight spark or flame. When this happens, the flames often flash back to the liquid itself, setting it on fire. If vapours from some of these volatile liquids become concentrated in a confined space, a violent explosion can occur!

Gasoline — The fuel we use daily in our cars and trucks is the biggest culprit in fire injuries involving flammable liquids. It is extremely hazardous when used in the home environment. It gives off vapours which are heavier than air, which means they can flow along the floor and even down stairs. If they come into contact with an ignition source such as a water heater pilot or even a spark in a refrigerator motor, a flash of flame can result.

- Use the proper storage container.
- Never keep gasoline (especially) in glass bottles, plastic jugs or other unsuitable containers.
- You may want to consider a container with certain safety features such as a pressure release valve and/or a flame arrester. These containers cost more than ordinary cans, but the added safety they provide is worth the expense.

Other substances which produce flammable vapours include many glues (such as model airplane cement) which contain volatile ethers, ketones, or esters; the acetone type solvent in nail polish remover and rubber cement. Some countries, for example, the United States of America, have established three labelling categories for liquid consumer products which will burn:

1. **Extremely Flammable** liquids produce ignitable vapours at room temperature, and, even when relatively cold (below 20F). Gasoline,



Occupational & Other Precautions



ventilation will help protect you from any toxic effects of the vapours, as well as lessening the chances that the fumes will build up and ignite.

The best means of storing flammable products such as paints, polishes, etc. is to place them in a metal cabinet, preferably in the garage. The following is a list of other recommended precautions for the use, disposal and storage of common flammable household products:

- **Discard all empty cans once they've contained flammable liquids.** Although empty, the can may still contain flammable vapours.
- **Never dispose of aerosol-type dispensers by throwing them into an incinerator.** Even products such as a whip cream container contain gases that can become explosive when heated!
- **Gasoline should always be stored in a safety can equipped with an automatic shutting spout.**
- **Use flammable liquids away from any flame or source of sparks.** This included hidden ones like pilot lights, heaters, electric motors and even static electricity from your clothes!
- **Never use flammable liquids for cleaning floors, clothes, tools, etc.**
- **Use only liquids labelled "Charcoal Starters" to get fires going and never add starter fluid after the fire has been lit.** Of course, both charcoal and charcoal starter fluids should only be used outdoors.
- **Always pour and use flammable liquids outdoors or in a very well ventilated space, away from fire or sparks.**

white gas (often used in camping stoves and lanterns), contact adhesives, and some wood stains are in this category.

2. **Flammable** liquids also produce ignitable vapours but they do so at higher temperatures. Among these liquids are paint thinners, some paints, and automotive products such as brake fluid.
3. **Combustible** on a label tells you that the fluid will burn once ignited, but it is less likely to catch fire than those with more ignitable vapours. Combustible liquids often include furniture polishes, oil-based paints, fuel oil, diesel oil, and kerosene.

When you select a liquid for a specific job, always look for the one that is least likely to ignite. Some products are not labelled Flammable because they are not flammable in liquid form (as they come from the container). Some paint strippers, for example, become quite flammable once they are spread out, because the flame-suppressant chemicals evaporate. Always use solvent-based products of any kind with adequate air ventilation, and when in doubt assume they are flammable. The

Flammable Fabrics

The many natural and synthetic textiles we wear and use to decorate our homes vary widely in flammability. Many garment-related fires cause injuries when a loose-fitting portion of a garment, such as sleeve or skirt hem, comes in contact with a stove burner or lighted candle.

Flaming liquids also cause serious injuries when they splash onto a garment and ignite its fabric, or when the textile is already wet with a flammable liquid (such as spilled lighter fluid) which is then ignited



Occupational & Other Precautions

by a nearby spark or flame. When selecting fabrics, take note of these precautions:

- Look for “Flame Retardant” or “Flame Resistant” on labels when shopping for clothing, especially for children. If you sew, shop for flame resistant fabric.
- Among fabrics which are not labelled “Flame Retardant” or “Flame Resistant,” dense, tightly woven fabrics (such as denim) are harder to ignite than lighter, more loosely-woven materials.
- Loose, flowing clothing, like many nightgowns, shifts, and robes, require extra vigilance to keep it away from ignition sources.

Generally, flame resistant garments should be washed in warm water. Some flame resistant fabrics require a phosphate-based detergent or a heavy-duty liquid detergent. Also, some flame-resistant fabrics should not be bleached. Be sure to check the washing instruction label on the garment.



DID YOU KNOW...?

In mid 2008, and on the cusp of forty-five years in business, the Sagba family, with the intention of transitioning out of the business, approached the local business team of Dean Straker and Roger Foster with the prospect of not only purchasing (Barbados Industries Ltd, a local uniform manufacturer), but as well, ushering the company through perhaps the next forty-five years. In the midst of negotiations to sell the company, and its Grazettes based factory, a fire that started in an adjacent space claimed the entire physical business from inventory, to equipment, to irreplaceable garment patterns and textiles. The Sagbas had little to sell Straker and Foster but the name and reputation that they had worked so hard to achieve over the last four decades. Without looking back, and virtually no experience in garment manufacturing or building a garment manufacturing business from the ground up, the pair proceeded with the purchase of the company.

Extract from The Industrialist 2010 Edition; source BMA.bb

Occupational & Other Precautions



FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATE CHECKLIST

This guide is intended to give establishment owners helpful information where applicable.

Does your business have:

- Adequate means of escape in case of fire or other emergencies
- Exit signs and directional arrows indicating the path of egress
- Clearly visible exit signs on all final exits
- No Smoking signs
- A well maintained means of escape that is free from obstacles
- Alarm systems: audible and visual warning devices throughout the building in case of fire or other emergencies
- Exit doors shall swing in an outward direction
- Appropriately located firefighting equipment (extinguishers, hose reels, fire blankets, sand etc.
- Extinguishers mounted at prescribed levels
- Fire protection equipment (total flooding systems, sprinkler systems, dry risers, wet risers, hydrants etc.
- Fire detection devices (smoke alarm, heat detectors)
- Unencumbered passage way to the assembly point
- Trained personnel
- Fire safety plans
- First Aid kits on site
- Fire safety inspections
- Auxiliary lighting
- Fire Service appliances access
- Imposed loads (the weight of any movable load in a building or structure, such as wind, rain and snow, occupants, furniture and other belongings) and static loads (any load, as on a structure, which does not change in magnitude or position with time)
- Electrical hazards



Do you know:

- The number of persons employed in specific parts of the work place.
- The number of persons employed or purposed to be employed.
- Particulars of any explosives, highly flammable materials and hazardous materials stored or used at the workplace
- The facility's occupancy load
- The construction of the building(including building materials, roof type)
- Expiration of entertainment license/fire safety certificate
- If the license is transferable

Do you store/need to store:

- Gas (Natural, LPG, CO2, O2, etc.)
- Petroleum products
- Combustible material in and around the building
- Flammable materials in metal containers and underground no less than two feet
- Flammable materials in metal containers above ground no more than 200 gallons
- Explosives (More than 50 lbs shall be stored in a magazine)

This list is adapted from the McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Architecture and Construction. Copyright © 2003 by McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.



TYPES OF FIRES AND APPROPRIATE RESPONSES

Having the proper fire extinguishers readily available can aid you in fighting a fire yourself. However, all fires are not to be treated the same. An agent successful in extinguishing one class of fire may result in a towering inferno when used to treat a different class of fire. Therefore, it is for your own safety that you know the appropriate responses for the most common, but very different, types of fires.

Fires In Energised Electrical Equipment

When attempting to extinguish a fire involving energized electrical equipment never use water. Water may result in more short circuits and fires in new areas. Water is also an electrical conductor. If you touch an appliance in contact with water, there is the danger of electrocution. If a small electrical appliance catches on fire, follow these procedures.

1. Switch off the appliance
2. Pull out the plug
3. Call the Fire Service
4. Smother the fire with a blanket, multipurpose or type C (chemical) extinguisher.

Gas/Oil Fires

Gas and oil fires also require smothering. Use a multipurpose or Type B extinguisher. Do not use water. Flammables such as gasoline float and may cause the fire to spread. If an extinguisher is not available, use baking soda or sand. In the case of small gas fires, follow these steps:

1. Shut off the gas supply always. Call the Fire Department.
2. Smother the fire with a blanket, multipurpose or Type B extinguisher.
3. Ventilate the area to allow gas to escape.
4. Contact your gas company.

Never enter a room with a cigarette or lighted match if you smell gas. A small spark could ignite any gas in the air and cause an explosion.

Cooking Fires

Most cooking fires involve grease which has accumulate in the oven, oil being heated on a burner, or leaving cooking utensils unattended on a



Occupational & Other Precautions

burner. For a fire in the oven, smother by keeping the door closed and/or throwing baking soda on the inflamed food. Use the lid or baking soda to smother a fire in a pan. However, do not move the pan. This will only fan the fire and draw up the flames. Be sure to never use water on a grease fire.

Storage Fires

Basements, garages, or washrooms are used as storage areas in the home. Many people also install or build metal sheds for storage. Whenever the storage area, efforts should be made to keep it neatly organized and free of potential fire hazards in the event of a small storage fire, however, take the following reactive measures:

1. Smother with a blanket or rug to cut off the air supply. Call the Fire Service.
2. Use a Type B or multipurpose extinguisher for liquids, solvents, oily rags or charcoal.
3. Use a Type A extinguisher or water for newspapers which have caught fire.

Outdoor Fires

Grass Fires

This type of fire continues to be of great concern as these not only pollute the environment but can cause structural damage to nearby homes. The Barbados Fire Service responds to the majority of grass fires during what is considered the island's "dry period". If controlled outdoor fires are allowed in your area, always be sure to take the following precautions.

Small Domestic Fires

Like grass fires, rubbish fires, have the tendency to develop into private dwelling house fires, as a result of persons burning rubbish close to their homes and sometimes leaving them unattended. This category of fire has proven to be a nuisance over the years to persons living within the communities where individuals constantly burn rubbish, especially where a neighbour may suffer from sinus or other health challenges. Fire incidents of this nature have increased from year to year as land owners clear property and accumulate refuse which is then burnt.



Photo courtesy Nation Publishing Co. Ltd.

- Burn trash and leaves only in metal trash burner.
- Make sure the burner is at least 20 feet away from any structures.
- Be sure there is a screen over the burner to prevent sparks from flying.
- Never attempt to burn on a windy day.
- When burning rubbish in an open fire, be sure to have a water hose readily available, should the fire get out of hand.
- Never burn cans containing aerosol sprays. The heating of these cans may cause an explosion

Ordinary Combustibles

Fires in ordinary combustibles: paper, cloth, and wood may occur. These fires are best extinguished by cooling. Should this type of fire occur, follow these procedures:

- Douse with water or use Type A extinguisher.
- Evacuate all occupants.
- Call the Fire Service.



BARBADOS SHOPS CHARTER 356A

Fire and fire-fighting equipment.

12. (1) An occupier shall provide and maintain

(a) such means of escape in case of fire for the persons therein as may reasonably be required in the circumstances; and

(b) proper equipment for fire-fighting which shall be so placed as to be easily available for use.

12. (2) Any door opening on to any staircase or corridor from any room in which any person is employed or any customer is allowed and, any door affording a means of exit from the shop for persons in the shop must, except in the case of sliding doors, be constructed to open outwards.

12. (3) While any person is within a shop the doors of the shop, and of any room therein and any door that afford a means of exit for persons in the shop from any building or from any enclosure in which the shop is situated, must not be locked or fastened in such manner that it cannot be easily and immediately opened from within.

12. (4) Any staircase or flight of steps leading from one floor to another or to the ground must be provided with substantial handrails and must, if the Chief Labour Officer so directs by requisition to the employer carrying on business therein, be provided with slats or some other sufficient means to prevent slipping.

12. (5) The Chief Fire Officer may at any time enter any shop and inspect the means of escape in case of fire and the fire-fighting equipment provided by the occupier.

12. (6) Every occupier who, by himself, or any person employed by him or acting under his direction or with his consent, refuses, fails to admit or obstructs the Chief Fire Officer acting under subsection (5) is guilty of an offence.

12. (7) Effective provision must be made in every shop for giving warning in case of fire, and such warning must be clearly audible throughout the shop.

12. (8) The contents of any room in which persons are employed or customers are allowed shall be so arranged or disposed that there is a free passage for all persons in the room to a means of escape in case of fire.



CANE FIRE (PREVENTION)

Offences in relation to cane fires

Any person who unlawfully and maliciously sets fire to any field; or throws any lighted cigar or cigarette, or any matter in a state of ignition on to any field or any road or track adjoining any field, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction, in the case of a first offence, to imprisonment for 12 months, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to imprisonment for 2 years.

Any person who smokes a pipe, cigar or cigarette in any field; or carries a lighted torch, or other matter in a state of ignition in any field or upon any road or track adjoining any field, is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$5 000 or to imprisonment for 12 months.

Lawful burning

The Minister may, after consultation with the Minister responsible for Agriculture, the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Fire Officer, issue a permit to any person authorising him to start a fire in any field, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the permit.

A person who fails to comply with the conditions of a permit issued under this section is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$500 or to imprisonment for 6 months or both.

Nothing in this section shall be construed as applying to any fire which has been started in any field by or with the consent of the occupier for the purpose of burning a tract in order to limit the spread of any existing fire or to any fire the starting of which is authorised by law.

[1977-7]

Duty to notify police and extinguish fires

Where any fire starts or is started in any field, otherwise than in accordance with section 5, it shall be the duty of every occupier of such field immediately to inform the officer in charge of the nearest police station of the outbreak of such fire; and to take steps to prevent the spread of, and to extinguish such fire as speedily as possible; and to allow any member of the Police Force or Fire Service to enter such field and take such steps as he considers necessary for the purpose of preventing the spread of and extinguishing such fire.

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction in the case of a first offence, to a fine of \$500 or to imprisonment for 6 months or both; and in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine of \$1 000 or to imprisonment for 1 year or both.



Thank You

The Barbados Fire Service Association would like to express sincere appreciation to all its corporate and community partners for their sponsorship and tireless support. Your contributions have been invaluable to assist with making the association's goals and endeavours for this coming year a reality. We wish your businesses and organisations continued success!

Advertisers Index

	p.
Bank of Nova Scotia, The	32
Barbados Association of Retired Person (BARP)	58
Barbados Cricket Association	15
Barbados Investment & Development Corporation	26
Barbados Light & Power Company Limited	30
Barbados National Oil Company Limited	58
Barbados Police Co-Operative Credit Union Ltd	52
Barbados Teachers Co-operative Credit Union	52
Bayview Hospital	58
BRC West Indies Limited	39
Bridgetown Cruise Terminals Inc.	80
Brydens Insurance Inc	5
Caribbean Industrial Inc.	36
Chickmont Foods Ltd.	34
C.O. Williams Construction Ltd.	28
Concorde Bank Ltd	58
Consolidated Finance	28
Crane & Equipment Ltd	36
E-Z Pave Inc	38
G4S Secure Solutions Barbados Limited	38
Global Produce Corporation	34
ICBL	38
Massy Trading - Auto Retail Store	36
McBride Caribbean Ltd	25
Oran Ltd	14
Rose & Laflamme	34
Rubis	9
Safety Supply Co.	36
Sentry Insurance Brokers	32
Servall Inc	30
Sky Mall	26
Skyline Cargo	52
Tapas	34
Williams Industries Inc.	14



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