

## **FEBRUARY: Week 2 – Pet Fire Safety**

**Overview:** Nationwide, 500,000 pets are harmed in home fires and cause 750 home fires each year. Curious animals may bump into candles or lamps, chew on power cords, or turn on cooking equipment. It is important to make sure that all flammable and heat-producing equipment is secured properly to keep your home safe from pesky pets.



It is also important to make sure that outdoor animals have a safe home. Hay, heating lamps, and electrical wiring can cause a fire that puts animals and their owners at risk.

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Pet safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/PetSafetyTips.ashx?as=1&iar=1&hash=F73C866C4C9397D131F8F0ED7707F5E2>
- Chicken coop safety tip sheet
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/ChickenCoopSafetyTips.ashx>
- ASPCA “Fire Safety and Pets”
  - <https://www.asPCA.org/news/fire-safety-and-your-pets-keeping-them-safe-unexpected#:~:text=Ensure%20there%20are%20no%20areas,pets%20are%20inside%20your%20home.>
- Fire proofing for pets
  - <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire/pet-fire-safety.html>
- Pet fire safety
  - <https://www.servicemasterbyzaba.com/blog/pet-fire-safety/>

**Media Tools:** Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote candle safety:

- **Twitter**
  - Protect your pets from fire with these helpful tips: <https://bit.ly/2FqH2RB>
  - Secure power cords and appliances to keep curious critters from causing damage to your home. <https://bit.ly/2FqH2RB>
  - When the chickens roost, make sure they are protected! Keep heat lamps away from flammable items. <https://bit.ly/2PVzWXj>
- **Facebook**
  - Curious cats and pesky pups can cause a fire if your house isn’t pet-proofed! Make sure power cords and cooking equipment is secured and hot appliances are out of reach <https://bit.ly/2FqH2RB>.
  - Make sure your backyard chicken coop is safe. Check for any damaged wiring and keep heat lamps clean and away from flammable material <https://bit.ly/2PVzWXj>.

- Pets are precious but never go back into a house for your animals if there is a fire! Tell the fire department if your pet is trapped.

**Educator Tip:** Contact your local animal shelter for tips on how to keep your pets safe at home. NFPA also offers tips on how to keep farm animals safe at [www.nfpa.org/farms](http://www.nfpa.org/farms).

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### Safety tips

- Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops.
- Keep pets away from candles, lamps, and space heaters.
- Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.
- Keep pets away from a chimney's outside vents. Have a "pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.
- Consider battery-operated, flameless candles. They can look and smell like real candles.
- Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Have any problems checked by a professional.

#### Smoke alarms

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of the home. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.