



Monthly Newsletter

June 2024

Fire blankets for the home

We are all familiar with the importance of keeping a fire extinguisher charged and ready in the house for emergencies. Every home should have at least one. But you may not be aware that there is an additional fire safety device available to add to your safety supplies. It is a fire blanket.

A fire blanket is exactly what it sounds like: it is a fire-resistant sheet that can be tossed over the flames – such as those in a kitchen grease fire – and smother it. According to experts, fire blankets are quick, easy to use and have the advantage of killing the fire without all the mess and cleanup resulting from using a fire extinguisher.



Fire blankets have not been used extensively in the United States, but are common in the United Kingdom. They should not be considered a replacement for a fire extinguisher, but just an additional safety device to have on hand.

According to industry experts, a fire blanket should be mounted on a wall or in a drawer near where it might be needed. A fire blanket typically comes with a protective cover that clearly identifies it and instructs the user how to extract the blanket and use it.

Putting a lid or pan over a fire in a container will smother the fire. But it may be risky to reach over the flames. Using a fire blanket lowers that risk.

How to use a fire blanket

First, turn off the source of heat, if possible. Then get the blanket and pull on the container straps to remove the blanket from its container. You can wrap your hands up in the blanket to protect them, if needed.

Quickly drape the fire blanket over the fire without throwing it or fanning the flames. Once it's on, leave it in place until you're certain the fire is out. About 30 minutes is recommended.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch a how-to video.

Personal protection

The National Fire Protection Association notes that fire blankets can also be used for personal protection. If a person's hair or clothing is on fire, wrapping them up in a fire blanket can be part of the “stop, drop, and roll” technique.

NFPA says blankets are especially useful if the person involved is not physically able to

move rapidly due to age, medical condition or physical limitations. In a similar situation, discharging a chemical fire extinguisher around a person's face could cause serious lung irritation.

If a fire is out of control and you are surrounded by flames, a fire blanket may also help protect you and those you are helping if you must evacuate near areas exposed to flames.

Where to buy fire blankets

There are a large number of sources for fire blankets. Home depot has them in store for about \$17. And Amazon offers them on line for as little as \$7 for two of them.

For more information about fire blankets, [CLICK HERE](#).

Youth criminal justice & crime lab days

Applications are now being accepted for the Sacramento County District Attorney's Criminal Justice Youth Shadow Day and the Crime Lab Youth Shadow Day.



Criminal justice event

The Criminal Justice program is in partnership with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, Sacramento County Probation Department, Public Defender's Office and Sacramento Superior Court.

It is an opportunity for students to job shadow professionals from various criminal justice agencies and gain a first-hand look at the different roles within the system. Students will be paired with prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, probation officers, law enforcement officers, investigators and judges.

Criminal Justice Youth Shadow Day is scheduled for Friday, July 12, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. The application deadline is June 28. [CLICK HERE](#) for information.

Crime lab event

Students may also apply to take part in the Crime Lab Youth Shadow Day. This is an opportunity to engage with criminalists who are experts in the field of forensic science and crime scene investigations.

Students will get a hands-on learning experience in blood spatter analysis; bullet trajectory; trace evidence; firearms and tool comparison and drug analysis.

Space is also limited for this event and is on a first-come, first-served basis. It will be on Friday, July 26. Registration is 30 minutes prior to class start times. The morning session is from 9 a.m. to noon. Or students may choose the afternoon session, which runs from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. In both cases, lunch will be provided from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the district attorney's crime lab, 4800 Broadway in Sacramento. The application deadline is July 12, 2024. For information and to apply, [CLICK HERE](#).

WDDNA offers auto pay for annual dues

These days, many of us have signed up to automatically pay recurring charges for our

subscriptions, online media, utilities and other types of services. Auto-pay eliminates the hassle of remembering to pay an invoice and prevents the possibility of having a desired service cancelled because you forgot to pay a bill.

Now you can also choose to pay all your future annual WDDNA dues through auto pay. Early this year, as part of our system upgrade, we added the auto pay feature to our member services. Not only does auto pay make it easier and quicker for you to manage your membership, it also helps us reduce the amount of volunteer labor and expense involved in our annual billing process.

If you would like to pay your future WDDNA dues automatically by credit card, we can send you a link that will allow you to set it up. It takes just a minute or two to input your credit card information, which will be securely stored by Authorize.net, a leading credit card processing gateway that we use for all our credit card transactions. (We at WDDNA will never see your credit card number.)

If you are the person in your household who normally pays your WDDNA dues and would like us to send you the link to set up this auto pay service, just click "YES" the button below.

Would you like to sign up for auto pay?

Yes

No

County has new fireworks restrictions

Excerpted from the Sacramento Bee

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article287533105.html>

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors has approved changes to a county fireworks ordinance, prohibiting the late-night use of all fireworks and introducing \$10,000 fines for lighting fireworks at schools and parks.

Among the changes, the county ordinance will prohibit the use of all fireworks — including state-approved “Safe and Sane” fireworks — any day between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. during the authorized window for legal fireworks, which is from noon on June 28 through July 4.

The update to the fireworks ordinance, which originally took effect in 2022, includes these fines for unlawful fireworks use:

- \$1,000 for the first violation.
- \$2,500 for the second violation within one year of the first violation.
- \$5,000 for each additional violation within one year of the first violation.
- \$10,000 for each violation that occurs within the American River Parkway, all schools and all parks. The \$10,000 fine previously applied only to firework uses on the American River Parkway.

Compliance with the fireworks ordinance will be enforced by peace officers, including Sheriff Department deputies, park rangers and school district police. The changes to the ordinance also apply to public rights of way adjacent to properties.

Free garden compost

Now through Sept. 27, Sacramento County is again offering free compost to Sacramento County residents for use in their home landscaping and gardening projects.

The compost is made from the food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings that are collected weekly by the county from residential curbside bins. By California law, the composted materials maintain a temperature of at least 131 degrees Fahrenheit for three days during the composting process, which eliminates any pathogens.

The free compost is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is restocked Monday through Friday as needed during the week, depending on vendor availability.

The compost site nearest us is in a large parking lot at 3843 Branch Center Road. It is open 24/7. You will need to bring your own shovel and containers. No mechanical loading is allowed and there is nobody at the compost site to assist.



Home security tips for travel

As you prepare for your summer vacation get away, following are some suggestions for home security from insurance companies Allstate and State Farm:

Eliminate signs you are gone

The key to protecting your home from burglars is to make it appear as if you've never left.

- Either stop your mail and newspaper deliveries or make arrangements for someone to take them in.
- Postpone any parcel deliveries until after your return .
- Make sure your regular gardening and pool maintenance services will continue.

Sign up for a vacation watch

As a member of WDDNA, sign up for free daily vacation watch checks by deputies. Just go to the WDDNA website, log in and click on the "Create a Vacation Watch" icon or go to the vacation watch item under the "Members Only" menu.

Enlist the neighbors!

Encourage them to park in your driveway. And don't forget to provide them with:

- House keys
- Alarm codes
- Keys to any cars left at home
- Emergency contact information

Ask neighbors to watch your home and take care of small tasks such as:

- Taking in flyers or door hangers left on the front porch
- Opening and/or closing drapes and curtains
- Placing your garbage can at the curb on garbage pickup day

Other measures to protect your home

- If you have a security system, alert your alarm company that your home will be unoccupied.
- Set up timers to lamps and a radio and schedule them so that they mimic your normal routine.
- Plan some exterior lighting. Set these lights on timers as well, to deter burglars.
- Disconnect small appliances, computers, televisions and media centers to protect them from power surges.
- Turn off the water to the washing machine and any other appliances as appropriate.
- Don't leave spare keys outdoors.
- Check that the toilets are not running.

- Adjust the furnace and water heater.
- Turn down the ringers on the phones.
- Do not change the greeting on your answering machine to reflect that you're away.
- Lock up valuables, important papers and firearms. If you don't already have your jewelry or other valuables in a safe deposit box, now might be the time to do so. Doing this also ensures that you don't leave out anything valuable in plain sight that a burglar might be able to see from a window.
- Lock the garage. Even if there is no entrance to your house from the garage, there's still a chance for numerous things to be stolen. Secure the door and any entrances to the garage. Double check locks on all doors and windows, including the door into your garage.
- Make sure the door leading to your garage is as strong and secure as your front door so it can't be easily kicked in.
- Cover your garage windows so thieves can't see that you are gone.
- Install a padlock on the throw latch on your garage door or use a C-clamp on the door track to prevent the door from being lifted.
- Don't use social media to announce to the world that you're on vacation. Caution your family that they should not include any discussion of their pending vacation in their online chatter.

Bridge toll scams

From the Federal Trade Commission

When you go through a toll, you know you'll need to pay a fee to use that road or bridge. But scammers are targeting drivers with text messages pretending to be from the tolling agency collecting "overdue toll charges." Here's what to know about this text scam.

The scammy text tells you to click a link to pay "overdue toll charges" to avoid late fees. But it's probably not the tolling agency contacting you. It's probably a scammer. Clicking the link can lead to a phishing attack, where the scammer tries to take your personal information (like your driver's license number) — and even steal your identity. And if you pay, not only are you out the money, but the scammer gets your credit card number, too.

To spot and avoid text scams about a fake toll:

- **Slow down.** Don't rush to click on links or respond to the text. Scammers want you to react quickly when they send you an unexpected text message, but it's best to stop and check it out.
- **Check with the tolling agency.** If you're worried the text is legit, check with the state's tolling agency. But use a phone number or website you know is real — not the info from the text.
- **Report unwanted text messages.** Use your phone's "report junk" option to report these unwanted texts to your messaging app or forward them to 7726 (SPAM).
- **Don't engage. Delete the message.** Unwanted messages often lead to scams. Once you've checked it out and reported it, delete the text message. And don't engage.

And if you spot a text scam, the FTC wants to hear about it. Go to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/whocomplaint) and tell us your story.

Member Q&A

Q: I have some friends coming to visit soon. They will be driving their RV. Where can they park overnight?

A: An RV can be parked on the street in front of your house for up to 72 hours. However, your friends cannot legally sleep in it while it is parked on a residential street anywhere in California. If your friends plan to stay in the RV overnight, they will need to go to an RV campground. There is one relatively close at Cal Expo.

HOW TO CALL FOR HELP

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you have an immediate emergency - if your life or property is in immediate danger, if you feel threatened by someone on or near your property, if you have just become the victim of a crime or if you are witnessing a crime in progress:

- CALL 911 from a land line.
- Or, if calling from a cell phone within Sacramento County, call (916) 874-5111.

TO REPORT A CRIME

There are two ways to report a crime to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department:

1. Call the Sheriff's Department NON-EMERGENCY LINE at (916) 874-5115. To bypass the recorded messaging when you call, dial 0 after the line is answered.
2. File a report online through the Sheriff's Department website. Click on this link to begin the process: https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/crime_report.php

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY (Not an emergency)

If you see someone engaged in suspicious activity but it is not an emergency, call 916-874-5115 (Sheriff's Department non-emergency line).

GENERAL CONCERNS, REPORTS OR QUESTIONS

If you have an issue that can be addressed later, you may contact our neighborhood patrol officers about it. The best way is via [EMAIL at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com).

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