



## Fort Belvoir Directorate of Emergency Services

*Fire and Emergency Services Division*

6100 Abbot Road

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Office: (703) 805-2091 Non-Emergency Dispatch (703) 806-6911



## Need a Gift Idea?

**Fort Belvoir, VA**—December 10, 2015 – Will you find yourself searching all weekend for the right gift for someone special? This year, consider giving a gift that says you care about their personal safety; a gift that could save their life.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that last year there were an estimated 381,000 residential fires, that's a home fire every 85 seconds, and a slight increase from prior year's statistics. These fires resulted in 2,380 deaths. In an effort to reduce the overall fire death toll, Fort Belvoir Fire & Emergency Services in conjunction with NFPA suggest the following gifts that could save you and your loved one's life:

- **Smoke alarms** provide an early warning and cut the chance of dying in a fire, nearly in half.
  - ✓ Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- **Smoke alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing**
  - ✓ These alarms include strobe lights, high decibels and/or vibration.
  - ✓ Contact the Hearing and Loss Association of America at 301-657-2248 or visit <http://www.hearingloss.org/>
- **Carbon monoxide alarms**
  - ✓ Carbon monoxide is often referred to as the silent killer due to its colorless and odorless gas; fuels such as natural gas, oil and wood that burn incomplete create a gas/carbon monoxide.
  - ✓ Carbon monoxide alarms for the deaf and hard of hearing. These alarms include strobe lights, high decibels and/or vibration (see smoke alarm information above for further details).
- **Sturdy candleholders**
  - ✓ Use lantern-style candle holders to prevent tip-over when candles are lit and to reduce the risk of items coming in contact with the open flame.
- **Sturdy fireplace screen** that will keep embers out of the room.
- **Gift certificates** for clean-up services
  - ✓ Removal of fire-prone clutter from areas that could give fires a place to start such as the basement, attic or yard.
  - ✓ Chimney sweeps to reduce creosote build-up that can easily ignite.
- **Warm nightwear or bedding**
  - ✓ Choose down, synthetic comforters, flannel sheets or flannel pajamas for keeping warm; reduces the need for using stationary or portable space heaters particularly at night when temperatures become cooler.
  - ✓ Nightwear or bathrobes with tight-fitting sleeves prevent sleeves from touching stove burners.
- **Large, deep, non-tip/sturdy ashtrays** prevent smoking materials from igniting upholstered furniture, bedding or other nearby combustibles.

***"Keeping the Homefront Safe"***



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### Need a Gift Idea?

- **Portable fire extinguisher**
  - ✓ Choose one that provides clear instruction on how to use; recipients should understand and learn the rules of safe extinguisher usage before a fire occurs.
- **Fireproof oven mitts** provide protection when handling cookware for the oven, stove, barbeque grill or other cooking equipment.
- **Large house numbers** enable firefighters to quickly locate the home, especially during the night, should an emergency occur.

#### Other great gift ideas

- Fluorescent, incandescent or LED lanterns for emergency lighting.
- Escape ladder for individuals residing in second or third story homes.
  - ✓ Check for a recognized testing laboratory prior to purchasing.
- Emergency preparedness kit
  - ✓ Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to find out what you will need to create a kit.
- First aid kit and a first aid textbook.



***GIVE THE GIFT OF SHARING THIS MESSAGE!***

***"Keeping the Homefront Safe"***