

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Amador-El Dorado Unit

CONTACT: Teri Mizuhara, Fire Prevention Specialist II, 530.708.2724
RELEASE DATE: December 12, 2012

Fire Safety On The Road

Camino – Are you traveling this holiday season and staying in a motel or hotel? If you or someone you know will be on the road and staying overnight away from home there are life-saving pointers to keep in mind. Amador-El Dorado Unit Chief Kelly Keenan cautions that “hotels and motels often become our “home away from home” but we need to be proactive to keep ourselves and family members safe in these places. Statistically, one out of every 12 hotels/motels reports a fire every year. Please take a moment to review the following information; it could prevent a holiday tragedy.”

Hotel/Motel tips:

- ✓ During check-in make ask the clerk what the alarm sounds like.
- ✓ On your way to your room *note where the fire exits are and count how many doors you must pass before you reach the exit.* Check to see that the exit is not locked. If it is, report it to the manager immediately.
- ✓ Take note of where the fire alarm pull stations are located in the hallway outside your room(s).
- ✓ Once in the room, review the escape plan posted in your room with family members.
- ✓ Keep your room key and a flashlight or headlamp on your nightstand and so you can grab them and go if you have exit the building.
- ✓ In order to determine if there is fire on the other side of your room door, touch the door with the back of your hand to test the temperature. If the door is cool, get down on your hands and knees, brace your shoulder against the door and carefully open it slowly. If there are flames on the other side be prepared to close the door immediately. If there are no flames, proceed with caution, and quickly move to the nearest exit making sure to stay low under the smoke where the air is cooler and safer to breathe.
- ✓ If you hear an alarm, leave the building immediately, do not stop to get dressed or pack your bags. Take the stairs if you are on an upper level, *do not take the elevator.*
- ✓ If you can't escape or there are flames outside your door, place wet towels/blankets in the cracks of the door of your room to prevent smoke from entering. Call the fire department and tell them where you are. Wait at the window and use a flashlight or light colored cloth to signal where you are. Remember if you call 9-1-1; tell the dispatcher what city you are in, then tell them the name *and address* of the hotel/motel where you are then tell them the room number.

For more information on this and other fire and life safety topics, please visit
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/hotel.shtm> .

###