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**February 9, 2018**

**NEWS RELEASE**

# **EPFD Warns Against Burn Injuries**

## **El Paso Fire Department participates in National Burn Awareness Week**

**EL PASO, Texas** – According to the American Burn Association (ABA), emergency departments see more than 486,000 burn-related injuries per year. In 2016, 3,390 individuals died from fire and burn injuries. Primary causes of burn injury include fire-flame, scalds, contact with hot objects, electrical and chemicals.

The El Paso Fire Department is providing fire prevention and safety advice to help keep everyone from receiving burn-related injuries:

- Periodically, check electrical plugs and cords for dirt or fraying.
- Keep hot liquids away from the edges of tables, stoves and other surfaces.
- Do not overload electrical outlets and keep appliances unplugged when not in use.
- When cooking, keep pot handles turned inward.
- Create a safe zone of at least 3-foot from any stoves, ovens, etc.
- Teach your child to stay away from lighters and matches. Keep these items out of a child's reach.
- Check smoke detector batteries and clean your smoke detector often.
- Design evacuation plans for your home. Practice them with everyone in your household, especially with children and the elderly.
- Check all exits to make sure wheelchairs or walkers can get through the doorways.
- In case of a fire, evacuate your home and call 911 from a safer location.
- Before using barbecues or grills, clean them of grease buildup and use lighter fluid sparingly.
- Store harmful chemicals and cleaners in an area where children will not be able to access them.

We would like to remind the general public that the EPFD is providing free smoke detectors. Please visit [epfire.org](http://epfire.org), contact us through our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, or call 3-1-1 to receive more information and sign up for our program.

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*Promote Transparent and Consistent Communication Among All Members of the Community*