



# Bermuda Fire Service

## HURRICANE / FIRE SAFETY TIP SHEET

The Bermuda Fire Service encourages you to use the following safety tips to help protect yourself, your family and your home from the potential threat of fire during or after a hurricane. You can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty by being able to identify potential hazards and following the outlined safety tips.

### **SOME TYPES OF FIRE RELATED HAZARDS PRESENT DURING AND AFTER A HURRICANE**

- Turn the gas cylinder valve off during the storm
- Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers can be a fire and explosion risk.
- Debris can easily ignite, especially if electrical wires are severed.
- Pools of water and even appliances can be electrically charged.
- Generators are often used during power outages. Unless generators are properly used and maintained, they can be very hazardous.
- Heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.

### **COMBUSTIBLE LIQUIDS SAFETY**

- Ensure that all combustible liquids are properly stored away from any heat source.
- Any storage of flammable or combustible liquids should be stored in approved storage containers.
- Appropriate portable fire extinguishers should be on hand and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### **ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Look for and replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, loose prongs, and plugs.
- Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard.
- Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced.
- Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage.

## HEATING SAFETY

- Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home
- Heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away
- It is advisable that your heaters have "tip switches". These "tip switches" are designed to automatically turn the heater off in the event they tip over
- Only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow suggested guidelines
- Never refill a kerosene space heater while it is operating or still hot
- Refuel heaters only outdoors
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby carpets, furniture or other combustible items

## GAS SAFETY

- Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house. **ONLY** if it is safe to do so, shut off the cylinder valve and move away to a safe area.
- **NEVER** strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion
- Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by the LPG installing company.

## AND REMEMBER

- Be careful when using candles and **do not** leave them unattended! Keep the flame away from combustible objects and out of reach of children
- Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least twice a year
- Smoke alarms should be tested monthly