

RV SAFETY TIPS

*Take Preventative Measures
and Be Prepared*



- Ensure your RV has a working smoke detector **and** carbon monoxide detector. Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors weekly.
- Never leave candles, electric fireplaces, or portable heaters unattended.
- Never leave anything cooking on the stove top unattended.
- Keep the stove area clear and place a couple boxes of baking soda near the stove in case of a flare-up.
- Never use the stove or oven to heat your RV.
- Stove and oven propane burners consume oxygen. Leave RV roof vents or windows open to let in the fresh air.
- Do not smoke in your RV in order to eliminate any concern about live ashes dropping, smoldering, and catching fire.
- Have multiple fire extinguishers available and know how to use them. They should be serviced or replaced annually and after each use.

- Know your emergency exits. Have two escape routes and an escape plan/meeting place in case everyone has to flee the RV quickly.
- Practice your own fire drills at least once a year. Remind everyone of fire extinguisher locations and test emergency exit windows to make sure they open fully.
- Make sure everyone can open the front door, hatches, and emergency exits.
- In the event of a fire, the most important thing is to get you and your family out quickly. Do not go back into an RV that has caught fire.
- Have the propane system leak tested annually.
- Know how to turn off the propane at the tank and disconnect the electricity.
- Check that the power cord for connecting your RV to an electrical supply is in good condition and of suitable gauge wire to handle the electrical load. Replace damaged cords immediately.



- The undercarriage of your RV, and even your exhaust pipe, can become extremely hot. It is important to leave enough clearance between them and the ground. Avoid storing combustibles under your RV.
- Avoid overloading electrical circuits. Do not plug too many things into one outlet, especially high-draw appliances or heaters. If an outlet plate or main electrical breaker panel gets hot, have an electrician check it out.
- Have a good, quality surge protector; it will shut the incoming power off instantly if there is a surge. (If an overload occurs, it can cause damage and possibly a fire.)
- Decorations should be fire-retardant and shall not block or impede exits.
- Keep perimeter of RV clear of trash and debris.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- Perform routine battery maintenance. Batteries should be replaced if they are damaged or no longer working properly.
- Check all 12-volt connections for short circuits.
- Periodically have all wiring connections inspected, especially in transfer switch boxes, electric panels, inverters, and generators.
- Periodically inspect back of refrigerator for smell of ammonia or yellow powder, both of which indicate cooling unit failure.
- Have RV engine compartments periodically inspected and serviced to make sure there are no rotted or loose hoses and no loose cables or wires.
- Periodically inspect and service refrigerators, furnaces, air conditioners, generators, and water heaters. Check for loose wires and blocked vents/ducts.
- Leaking fluids in the engine compartment can ignite. Check all hoses for clamp tightness and signs of leaking. Provide drip pan for any vehicle fluid leaks and promptly repair leaks.
- Tighten loose electrical connections which can produce heat and potentially start a fire.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE AND WASTEWATER

- Never dispose of wastewater or sewage onto the street, curb, or gutter.
- Do not overfill wastewater or sewage tanks. Service tanks periodically to avoid spills and leaks.
- Properly dispose of all wastewater and sewage at appropriate disposal locations. There are locations on the Peninsula and mobile services are available.
- Ensure all waste-tank caps are properly installed and fit tightly.
- Provide drip pans for any leaking waste tanks and repair leaks immediately.

Please be aware the following are violations of the Mountain View City Code and citations may be issued:

- Discharge of wastewater or sewage to the gutter/storm drains.
- Parking in excess of 72 hours.
- Garbage dumping.



**For questions, please contact us at
650-903-6378.**



*CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
FIRE DEPARTMENT*

RV Safety and Vehicle Maintenance Tips



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mountainview.gov/fire

Call 9-1-1 for Emergencies