

## The Office of Emergency Management Offers the Following Information:



On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown proclaimed a Drought State of Emergency for the State of California. Within this declaration, the Governor states that California is facing one of the driest years in recorded state history and suggests that each person cut their water usage by 20 percent in order to conserve. In order to increase awareness on this critical matter, the Office of Emergency Management offers the following tips to help in the water conservation efforts:

- Turning off the water while you brush your teeth can save 4 gallons of water a minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four.
- Turning off the water while you shave can save more than 100 gallons of water a week.
- Fixing a leak can save 500 gallons of water each month.
- Every toilet flush you eliminate can save between two and seven gallons of water
- Taking showers instead of baths can save 30 gallons of water. Filling the bathtub uses about 50 gallons of water.
- Keeping your shower less than 5 minutes can save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- Using a water-saving showerhead can save your family 500 gallons a week.
- Running your dishwasher and washing machine only when they are filled can save 1,000 gallons a month.
- It's also important to be efficient when doing things such as the laundry and the dishes. Residents are encouraged to wait until the load is full, to maximize the usage of water. Waiting until the dishwasher load is full could save up to 15 gallons of water.
- Choosing a water-saving model when replacing a washing machine can save up to 20 gallons per load.
- Using a hose nozzle and turning off the water while you wash your car can save more than 100 gallons of water.
- Homeowners can also save water by cutting back on outdoor water usage. Using your sprinklers for 3 to 5 minutes less time could save between 2 and 5 gallons.

For more water conservation tips, contact the City of Moreno Valley Office of Emergency Management at 951-413-3800.

## Fire Prevention Bureau 411

### Overview

The Fire Prevention Bureau is a division of the Moreno Valley Fire Department. Its mission is to safeguard the community from fire and environmental hazards through public education programs, inspections verifying adherence to fire regulations, and hazard mitigation through the highest standards of fire protection engineering.

The Fire Prevention Bureau has a daily effect on the community due to its involvement in the planning, construction, and maintenance of the many structures through the city. Whether it is the width of a fire lane, the number of exits in a business, the location of a fire hydrant or fire sprinklers in a residence, citizens will experience some life safety measures provided by the Fire Prevention Bureau

## Fire Prevention Q&A

### What is the California Fire Code?

The California Fire Code are regulations that establish fire safety requirements for a wide range of activities in Moreno Valley. The City Council adopts the California Fire Code and makes specific amendments which fulfill the needs and values of the community. These requirements govern such matters as:

- emergency preparedness
- prevention and reporting of fires
- manufacturing, storage, handling, use, and transportation of hazardous materials
- conduct of various businesses and activities that pose fire hazards
- the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of the buildings and premises that house such materials, businesses and activities

### To whom does the Fire Code apply?

The Fire Code applies to all persons and places in Moreno Valley. Everyone must comply with its prohibitions and fire safety requirements. Persons and businesses that conduct or supervise activities regulated by the Fire Code may also be required to obtain permits that authorize them to engage in those activities.

### Why do you inspect our business every year?

Fire Inspections are completed at least once a year to make sure the buildings in which you work or live, or businesses you visit are safe to occupy. These inspections ensure that fire protection devices and systems are maintained on a regular basis. Fire inspectors also ensure that exit doors function properly, exit signs illuminate, and fire-rated walls are not compromised.

### What is the minimum rating required of a fire extinguisher? How many fire extinguishers am I required to maintain? How often does my extinguisher need to be serviced?



For businesses, the minimum rating for a fire extinguisher is 2A10BC. The rating can be found on the label of the extinguisher near the UL (Underwriter's Laboratory) symbol. High hazard locations may require a higher rated extinguisher. In general, the Fire Code requires that one extinguisher be provided for every 75 feet of travel distance in low hazard occupancies, such as office spaces. Fire extinguishers must be serviced annually by a contractor licensed by the Contractor's State License Board or the State Fire Marshal.

Although not required, the Moreno Valley Fire Department recommends that residents have at least one fire extinguisher in the home. A general purpose, or ABC, fire extinguisher is designed to put out the types of fires typically seen in the residential setting. Kitchen and garage fires are the most common, so having a fire extinguisher near one or both locations is advised.

### **Does my home need a smoke alarm and, if so, how many?**

The California Health & Safety Code requires that every single-family dwelling has operable smoke alarms that are approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal and installed in accordance with the State Fire Marshal's regulations. Smoke alarms must be centrally located outside each sleeping area. In addition, all new construction or additions, alterations, or repairs that exceed \$1,000 in cost and for which a permit is required must have a smoke alarm installed inside each bedroom as well as one centrally installed in the corridor or area outside the bedroom. For new construction only, the smoke alarm must be hardwired with a battery backup. For all other homes, the smoke alarm may be battery operated. This law also applies to multi-family dwellings, such as apartment buildings.



### **Does my home need a carbon monoxide monitor?**

Beginning January 1, 2013 all single-family homes, apartments, and condominiums in California are required by law to have a carbon monoxide device installed if the homes have a fireplace, an attached garage, or fossil fuel burning appliances. You should install a carbon monoxide monitor outside of each separate sleeping area.

### **What is a “Knox Box” and do I need one?**

A Knox Box is basically a locked key box. It is a secure and established system that is used throughout the country, and it allows only fire personnel to gain rapid entry into a building. Property owners usually put all necessary keys, pass cards, and other relevant items in a Knox Box to ensure after-hour entry should emergencies occur. In an emergency, lack of immediate access can endanger lives and cause property damage from fire, smoke, water, and forcible entry. If you open a new business or multi-family dwelling such as an apartment building or condominium complex, you are required to obtain a Knox Box. For existing businesses, although we highly recommend purchasing one, we require that you obtain one if the business is sold, relocated, or if tenant improvement work is performed.



Knox boxes are also available for purchase for private residences if homeowners would like to allow for rapid entry by emergency personnel due to a medical condition. For information on how to purchase a Knox Box, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (951) 413-3370.

### **How can I register a complaint about a possible fire hazard?**

If you have a concern regarding a fire hazard situation, you may file a complaint with the Fire Prevention Bureau by calling (951) 413-3370 or by notifying us via email at [fireprevention@moval.org](mailto:fireprevention@moval.org). The Fire Prevention Bureau investigates complaints filed by citizens regarding potential fire hazards including blocked exits, inoperable fire protection systems, overcrowding, or dead vegetation. Once a complaint is received, a Fire Inspector will investigate the matter to verify if there is a violation. A corrective notice can be issued if the situation is deemed to be in violation of what is specifically required by the Fire Code. For example, a citizen may file a complaint about a neighbor's backyard storage, stating it poses a fire hazard. The Fire Code has requirements regarding height of combustible storage and distance from property lines. If the storage does not violate a specific Fire Code requirement, then the issue will be considered investigated and resolved. Aesthetic issues with conditions that may appear hazardous can also be addressed by the Code & Neighborhood Services Division at City Hall.

