

OCTOBER 16, 2024

SALUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS

SCI
Seward County Independent

MT
The Milford Times

Prevent home electrical fires

A person's home should be a safe haven. Too often, however, there may be dangers lurking in a home that can compromise the safety of residents.

Electrical fires are no joke. The Hartford insurance company says electrical failure or malfunctions account for almost 34,000 home fires per year. The National Fire Protection Association says they can contribute to 440 deaths and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage annually.

Older homes may be most vulnerable to electrical fires, as such structures were not designed to handle the demands of modern living. The insurance experts at Nationwide say half of all homes in the United States have electrical systems that were installed

before garage door openers, high-tech coffee makers, and many computers became must-have items. And the Electrical Safety Foundation International says homes built before 1973 with overloaded electrical systems pose a number of safety threats.

Overloaded circuits are not the only contributor to electrical fires. Damaged wiring characterized by worn, frayed or loose wires can cause fires. Malfunctioning appliances or those improperly maintained also can create home fires. Another contributor is poorly installed extension cords and power strips, as well as faulty outlets and switches around homes.

Homeowners can take various steps to reduce the risk of electrical fires at

home.

- Install arc fault circuit interrupters. AFCIs are special types of circuit breakers that help prevent fires caused by nicked or frayed wiring. An AFCI gets tripped and cuts off power when an electrical problem is detected before a fire can start. In 2022, the National Electric Code started requiring AFCIs in bedrooms, and by 2017 they have been mandated throughout homes.

- Conduct a home electrical inspection. All homes more than 40 years old should be inspected to ensure their electrical systems can handle modern demands, says Nationwide. A qualified electrician can make recommendations regarding replacing breakers and suggest other modifications to im-

prove safety.

- Utilize a monitor. Ting from Whisker Labs monitors a home's electrical network using a smart plug-in sensor that is designed to detect hazards. The company indicates micro-arcs and sparks that develop are precursors to electrical fires.

- Turn to automatic shut-offs. Homeowners can utilize appliances and additional devices that automatically shut off after a set period of time. This can reduce the risk of overheating.

- Rely on timers or smart devices. Timers and smart home devices can give homeowners control of electrical components like appliances or lights from a remote area. This enables users to turn an appliance on or off to reduce over-



heating or avoid additional risk factors for electrical fires.

- Don't go DIY. Choosing to work with a professional electrician rather than doing electrical work oneself can help reduce electri-

cal fire risk considerably. Electricians know how to work on electrical systems safely to prevent damage to wires and components, and also safeguard themselves against shock.

Thank You
**FOR ALWAYS
ANSWERING
THE CALL**



Memorial
Health Care Systems



Seward Volunteer Fire Department

DOUG CARROLL

Members of the Seward Volunteer Fire Department are from left: (first row) Lisa Kimsey, John Singleton, Brent Tempel, Ian Finkbeiner, Tim Herron, Connie Languen, Jason Rasmussen, Landon Dirks, Colby VanDerslice, Johnny May and Dan Brumm; (second row) Thomas Suhr, James Kimsey, Bryan Niebrugge, Haley Goodman, Brady Johnson, Thomas Barnett, Zach Pifold, Mark Suhr, Emily Estes, Brad Park, Jeff Neihardt, Brian Albright, Eric Strole and Jose Castillo; (third row) Travis Pollak, Kelby Nitz, Dan Molsen, Kent Auman and Lucas Brettman; and (fourth row) Tyler Dickinson and Tayler Miffin. Not pictured are Angela Dobrusky, Kelly Kumm, Brock Maloy and Tami Svehla.



Beaver Crossing Volunteer Fire Department

ANDRES LOPEZ

Beaver Crossing Volunteer Fire and Rescue members include, from left: (front row) Patrick Pfile, Becky Clark and Shannon Steckly; and (back row) Mark Kreutzer, Kris Kreutzer, Kent Smetter, Scott Petersen, Irwin Crawford, Jerry Zieg and Gary Grantski. Not pictured are Heather Black, JP Black, Bonnie Grantski, Marissa Pfile, Chris Butzke, Robin Butzke, Jeremy Craig, Wyatt Schoepf, Mike Stutzman and Aaron Stinson.



Bee Volunteer Fire Department

DOUG CARROLL

Members of the Bee VFD include, first row, left to right: Sherri Slack and Tommy Kouma; Second row: Rick Craig, Bobby Kozisek and Robert Corner. Not pictured: Caitlin Strauss, Jackie Corner, Danielle Shipley, Dave Nieburge, Bob Viger and Justin Hemphill.

We salute all area fire and rescue departments.
Thank you for all you do!

BERN'S BODY SHOP
1221 WEST HWY 34 • SEWARD, NE
402-643-2810

Cattle
— BANK & TRUST —
Seward • Lincoln Member FDIC

We thank all first responders for their hard work and dedication.

405 N 5th St • 104 S 5th St
cattlebank.com

Advanced
ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

521 First Street,
Milford, NE
402-761-2216
www.youraam.com

Proud to support the area fire and rescue departments. Thank you for your dedication and service.



Cordova Volunteer Fire Department

ANDRES LOPEZ

Cordova Volunteer Fire Department members include, from left: (front row) Lars Larsen, Lance Larsen, Darel Petersen, Duane Barnes and A.J. Hansen; and (back row) Buzz Zastrow, Spencer Papik, Ryan Pavlish, Blake Due, Rick Ricenbaw, Kent Olsen and Darrell Eastin.



Garland Volunteer Fire Department

STEPHANIE CROSTON

Members of the Garland Volunteer Fire Department in 2024 include, from left: (seated) Nicholas Becker, trustee; Brian Johnson, assistant training captain; Jason Swerczek, chief; Terri Schrad, medical lieutenant; James Pliefke, president; Nicole Wegman, secretary/treasurer; and Mike Luebbe, medical captain; and (standing) Jake Swerczek, trustee; Austin Sayer, trustee; Mitchell Bromwich; Rod Bromwich; Lance Jarzynka; Mark Henning and Chuck Luebbe. Not pictured are Toby Beckmann, Assistant Chief Jake Bennett, Erinn Blaske, Phil Hargis, Cory Madsen, Sallas Schilling and Dave Wesely.



Malcolm Volunteer Fire Department

KEATON BURGESS

Pictured are the members of the Malcolm volunteer fire department, from left: (front row) Zach Hough, Kelley Burianek, Makiyla Matthes, Rick Klauz, Jack Tarr, Adam Benischek, Cliff Schweitzer, Corey Heidtbrink, and Garry Heidtbrink; and (back row) Vince Meyer, Shaun Donahoo, Marcus Kallhoff, Jared Ritze, Matt Bratrsovsky, Trevor Cotton, Dylan Mason, Dave Wacker, Lucas Stutzman, Marcus Matthes and Barry Petersen. Not pictured: Ginger Andrews, Jim Densberger, JJ Frink, Kerry Fry, Dustin Green, Addison Gropp (Cadet), Lexi Gropp, Doug Heidbrink, Steve Heidtbrink, Marcus Kallhoff, Kevn Klink, Justin Matthes, Brent Nordmeyer, Logan Petersen, David Rohe, Aaron Schmidt, Cliff Schweitzer, Jeff Schweitzer, Milan Schweitzer, Shane Vetick and Melissa Wilcox.

Proud to support our local fire and rescue departments

MILFORD PLUMBING, INC
 513 First St., Milford
 402-761-3886
 Mark Saltzman



We appreciate the Milford Fire Department and all the area departments!

INSURE NEBRASKA

Joe Schluckebier • Katie Wergin • Lydia Fry • Peyton Schluckebier
 517 1st St., Milford, NE • 402-761-2291 • www.InsureNE.com

Thank you for the valuable time you put into volunteering for the Fire & Rescue Departments



402-761-3361
 510 First Street
 Milford, NE
 austinfarmmgt.com



Thank you

Fire and Rescue!
Seward Electronics
 938 Seward St.
 Seward, NE
 402-643-6262



 **Joe Ruzicka**
 Owner

Thanks to all the men and women serving as volunteers in our Fire & Rescue Departments!

Lee's Refrigeration
 Seward, NE • 402-643-3644





Goehner Volunteer Fire Department

STEPHANIE CROSTON

The Goehner Volunteer Fire Department includes, from left, Collin Freiesen, Garret Klooster, Cody Nagel, Matt Howe, Shawn Nagel, Alex Dodson, Matt Meyer, Dakota Fernau, Gabe Knisley, Jason Jarzynka, Clint Ostrander, Jamie Knisley, Dustin Blecha, Jessica Anthony, Ethan Ostrander, Jeff Adams and Fred Ulch.



Milford Volunteer Fire Department

CRAIG JONES

Members of the Milford Volunteer Fire and Rescue Dept. include, from left: (front row) Shane Noble, Trevor Plessel, Colby Kontor, Kyle Fastenau and Jeremy Dinges; and (back row) Delton Stauffer, Alex Gurnsey, Tim Stewart, Travis Fougeron, Troy Pickerill, Allissa Gurnsey, Wayne Stohlmann and Ron Erb. Not picture are Jessica Allen, T. J. Buchli, Marcie DeLong, Brad Freeman, Tyler Gingerich, Kurt Herr, Michael Langenberg, Phillip Loseke, John Melema, Dan Pickerill, Matt Roth, Ryan Roth, Stuart Schweitzer, Brent Schweitzer, Bruce Stutzman, Dave Swartzentruber, Keith Teselle, Steve Troyer, Dave Ulrich, Travis Yeackley, Andrew Yoder, Derrek Yoder, Stephanie Horst, Yuetta Yoder and Natalie Yoder.



Waco Volunteer Fire Department

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Waco Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department include, from left: (first row) Jason Abel, David Norquest, Connor Wiese, Chris Farley, Kevin Butzke, Greg Heine and Aarik Naber; (second row) Keven Dye, Sam Hall, Justin Scamehorn, Renee Dinkelman, Todd Bauder, Wade Stephens, Randy Barnes and Jeremy Hogue; and (third row) Gale Dinkelman, Wayne Sackschewsky, Rex Heiden and Matthew Mau. Alex Lekai and Nick Woltenburg are not pictured.



WOODS BROS REALTY
 112 S 4th St., Seward, NE 68434
 402.643.2541 | 800.574.7556

Thank you
FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE!

PAC 'N' SAVE DISCOUNT GROCERY
We Are Local. We Are Family.
 1519 West Hwy 34 • Seward, NE
402.643.6609

Thank You Fire & Rescue Workers!

We appreciate the dedication of the fire and rescue workers for helping others in need!

888-562-3602 | jonesbank.com

PLEASANT DALE FIRE STATION



Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department

DOUG CARROLL

Members of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department are, from left: (front row) Jason Klug, Jim Vance, Nick Dankers, Stephanie Meyer, J.J. Vance, Jeff Oehm, Larry Lawton, Leroy Trease, Duane Burd, Brittany Minnehan, Dave Ficke and Ernie Krent; and (back row) Travis Meyer, Michael Bridgford, Travis Fougeron, Michael Minnehan, Jeremy Seffron, Leslie Thomas, Loree Havlat, Tanner Smith, Malissa Sittler, Bobby Meyer, Colton Wehrs, Colby Yeackley, Nate Keller, Jonny Piening and Mike Dankers. Members not pictured are Brian Barnes, Mitch Bennett, Charlie Bennett, Joey Carder, Andrew Ficke, Austin Ficke, Joe Fillipek, Jim Kouma, Dustin Piening, Trevor Piening, Tyler Piening, Cody Rohrig, Jerry Rotschafer, Austin Stinson and Aaron VanAndel.



Staplehurst Volunteer Fire Department

DOUG CARROLL

Members of the Staplehurst VFD include, first row, left to right: Sarah Ehlers, Zach Vrba and Megan Emons. Second row: Tyler Strong, Shawn Kitzing, Colton Hood Jamison Fern and Jason Schaefer. Not pictured: Mike Sheehan, Paul Duer, Bill Brauer, Justin Hemphill, Ben Sheehan, Shaun Benedict, Jackie Corner, Trey Brandenburgh, Amy Prochaska, Jeremy May and Colton Stava.

WE SALUTE
OUR AREA
FIRE & RESCUE
VOLUNTEERS!
Thanks
FOR ALL YOU DO!

150 YEARS
Zabka-Perdue
FUNERAL HOME
SINCE 1874

402.643.2924
SEWARD, NE • DWIGHT, NE
ZABKAFUNERALHOME@GMAIL.COM
ZABKAFUNERALHOME.COM

GBE
Gabriel, Burger & Else, CPA

Salutes Our First Responders

135 N. 5th St., Seward • 402-643-4557 • gbepca.com

Thank you
for all your hard work!

HUGHES HB BROTHERS

Seward is a better community because of our volunteers!

www.davisonfurniture.com Like us on Facebook

Davison Furniture Center
402-643-3777

The Magic Starts Here!

A Member of **Wesley Furniture**
2787 Progressive (South Hwy 15)
Seward, NE 68434

***** OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK *****

Thank you for your dedication to our volunteer fire & rescue departments!

Ehlers Electronics LLC

321 Jackson Ave.
Seward, NE
402-643-2560

Thank you
For all that you do
TO KEEP US SAFE

Seward County
SCI
Independent
402-641-3676
sewardindependent.com

MT
Milford Times
402-641-3676
milfordtimes.net



Tamora Volunteer Fire Department

The Tamora Volunteer Fire Department in 2023 includes, from left: (seated) Dave Payne, Ray Besse, Dave Scholl, Jon Propst, Gary Douthit, Adam Hladky and AJ Bapat; and (standing) Johnny Bapat, Tim Classen, Max Nordmeyer, Taylor Nuttleman, Josie Propst-Scholl, Mike Pflughaupt and Doug Cutshall. Not pictured are Bob Viger, Chad King, Nate Payne, Justin Crumley, Matt Miller, James Novotny, James Kratochvil and Adam Miller.

STEPHANIE CROSTON



Ulysses Volunteer Fire Department



Utica Volunteer Fire Department

ABOVE: Pictured are the members of the Ulysses Fire Department, from left, Jim Klement, Randy Semin, Justan Wynegar, Mike Fiala, Jon White, Justin Fiala, Allison Zitek and Gary Zitek.

KEATON BURGESS

LEFT: Members of the Utica Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are, from left: (first row) Bill Deremer, Gary Dittmar, Jerry Springer, Larry Barth and Loyd Erks; (second row) Jesse Harts-horn, Adam Simmerman, Travis Grantski, Curtis Deremer, Amanda Struble, Wes Rhodes and Jon Koski; and (third row) Shane Shandera, Coleman Outhet, Josh Struble, Lanette Simmerman and Eugene Hinze. Not pictured are Byron Kraus, Sarah Kraus, Tammy Sladek, Craig Wolf, Jim Avery, Andy Fehlhafer, Adam Fritz, Shawn Harroun, Gordon Luebbe, Todd Murphy, Cody Nuttleman, Colette Stelling and Jay Stelling.

EMILY HEMPHILL

Thank you
for your dedication!

Merle's Flower Shop
402-643-6618

FIRE SAFETY SAVES LIVES

Thank You
to our local Fire & Rescue Departments!

UPTOWN TAVERN
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

121 N. State Hwy. • Milford, NE
402-761-9986

Thank You!
To all the volunteers of our Fire & Rescue Departments

FirstBank of Utica
Utica • Cordova • Friend • Milligan
www.fbutica.com

We Support Our Area First Responders!

BLUE RIVER ELECTRIC
402-430-1183
1053 South St. Seward, NE

We appreciate the Fire & Rescue Volunteers, including our own father/son team of firefighters!

Mark Suhr (left) & Thomas Suhr (right)

SUHR & LICHTY
INSURANCE AGENCY
145 N. 5th St., Seward, NE
suhrlightly.com • 402-643-2911