

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Contact: OCHD Healthy Neighborhoods  
Program 315-731-3465



### Oneida County Stresses the Importance of Fire Safety Healthy Neighborhoods Program Available in Certain Communities

Oneida County Health Department would like to remind the community of the importance of use of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in the home. The U.S. Fire Administration of FEMA recommends one smoke alarm on every level of the home, as well as inside and outside of each sleeping area. A carbon monoxide alarm should be on each level of the home as well. Smoke alarms should be tested and cleaned monthly, and batteries replaced as needed as well.

Fires can happen anywhere in the home. In the kitchen, the cooking area should be free from items that can catch fire. The kitchen stove hood should be clean and vented to the outside. Pots and pans should never be left cooking on the stovetop or in the oven unattended.

Be aware that electrical cords should not be frayed or cracked. Circuit-protected, multi-prong adapters can be used for additional outlets. Clothes dryer lint filters and venting systems should be regularly cleaned.

If you use candles, make sure they are **NOT** left unattended or within reach of children or animals. They should also be extinguished before going to bed or when leaving the room. Limit smoking indoors.

Heating safety is also very important. Chimneys and furnaces should be cleaned and inspected yearly. Furniture and other items should be at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, wall heaters, baseboards, and space heaters. Fireplace ashes should be placed outdoors in a covered metal container at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire. Do **NOT** use extension cords with space heaters. All heaters should also be approved by a national testing laboratory and have a tip-over shut-off function.

Lastly, make sure your family has a home escape plan. Have two ways out of each room. Know how to crawl low to the floor when escaping. Once you are out, stay out. Have a meeting place outside, in front of your home. Practice your fire escape plan with your family.

Oneida County Health Department has a program called Healthy Neighborhoods that may be beneficial to you and your home safety needs. Healthy Neighborhoods is a five-year grant awarded to the Oneida County Health Department from the New York State Department of Health. The program is designed to reduce housing-related illness and injury within a targeted area through home visitation. The program does a health and safety assessment using a questionnaire, provides health and safety education to families and individuals, provides agency and organization referrals as needed, and provides **FREE** health and safety supplies.

Some of those free health and safety items include: fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and many other home health and safety products.

The only qualification for the program is that people must live in the target area. If you live in one of the following areas, you may qualify Annsville, Ava, Boonville, Blossvale, Camden, Durhamville, Florence, Lee, Lee Center, Rome, Sherrill, Sylvan Beach, Taberg, Vernon, Verona, Vienna, Western, Westernville, and Westmoreland. Services are provided regardless of an individual's income or if they own or rent the home, they live in.

This program assesses overall health and wellness with a specific focus on fire safety, asthma treatment and prevention, lead poisoning prevention, and injury prevention.

If you live in one of the targeted areas of the grant, and would like to receive free health and safety items for your home, contact the Oneida County Health Department- Healthy Neighborhoods Program at 315-731-3465!