



Texas Research Park News

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Plan Now for a Safe Winter

By Sharon Reynolds, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

It's always better to be prepared when winter arrives. Better safe than sorry, right? A couple of years ago, even South Texas saw snow on the ground, which is a rarity. Winter storms can be dangerous with potential power failures and loss of heat. While being outdoors during winter can be dangerous, there are also some indoor dangers to be aware of.

HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

Please be extremely careful this winter and remember these helpful tips for staying safe.

DANGER: Never use your gas stove or oven to heat your home, it's not safe. If the power goes out in your home, garner heat from the following: warm coats, blankets, or sleeping bags. Using a gas oven or stove can cause carbon monoxide to fill your home and poison everyone inside.

FIREPLACE:

- Only use the fireplace if it's up to code and has plenty of dry firewood.
- Check the fireplace now to make sure it is properly vented to the outside. If using a gas log fireplace, then ensure gas is not leaking from the flue.
- Get your fireplace checked out now by a professional to prepare for winter storms ahead.

CAUTION: Never burn paper in a fireplace. Paper burns very quickly and can easily float up the chimney with the hot air. This is dangerous because flames that enter the chimney can ignite the creosote deposits in the flue. Additionally, pieces of burning paper can rise through the chimney and ignite the flammable materials outside the home.

ELECTRIC HEATERS:

- If you plan to use an electric space heater this winter, choose one with automatic shut-off switch and non-glowing elements.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 to 6 feet away from curtains, blankets, or any other flammable material.
- Remember to never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children unattended near a space heater.
- Ensure the cord of an electric space heater is not a tripping hazard, however never run the cord under carpets or rugs.
- Plug a space heater directly into an outlet, never use an extension cord. If the electrical cord is damaged or produces visible sparks, do not use it.

LIGHTING YOUR HOME SAFELY

POWER FAILURE:

- Stock up now on battery-powered flashlights or lanterns instead of candles. Remember, most house fires are caused by candles.
- If you must use candles to provide light inside your home, remember to never leave lit candles unattended.
- Check your generator to ensure it is in good working condition. If a generator is used due to a winter storm, use it safely by moving it outside the home and at least 20 feet away from doors, windows, or vents and in a space where rain and snow will not reach them. Remember generators exude carbon monoxide. Never use a generator in your garage or basement – the fumes can be deadly.
- Prepare by getting and installing a carbon monoxide detector now. This may save your life.

Spectrum Association Management

Ph: 210-494-0659 Fax: 210-494-0887
Community Manager: Vanessa Squires
contact@spectrumam.com

Guest Services Department

Guest Services Center contact@spectrumam.com

- Live Chat
- Billing Questions
- General Inquires
- Creates Work Orders to Initiate Repairs

Access Center access@spectrumam.com

- Pool Gate and Card Programming, Order Fulfillment
- Responds to Work Orders created
 - *Activate a new pool card
 - *Replace a lost pool card

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 - Statement of Account Requests Only
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 - Resale Requests
 - Condo Questionnaires
 - PUD Questionnaires
 - Governing Document Requests

Account Maintenanceupdate@spectrumam.com

- Address Changes
- Name Changes
- Management Addendums
- Secondary User Authorizations



Volunteer Opportunity

Your community needs people like you to get involved and help out. Your involvement in your association is vital to the success of the Texas Research Park Homeowners Association. We are looking for volunteers to start a Community Involvement Committee. The Community Involvement Committee can focus on anything that you believe is important to maintaining and improving the community's common areas, enforcing safety rules and helping other members be involved in the community. For more information, contact Spectrum at contact@spectrumam.com.



KB Home Notice

Spectrum Association Management will not be able to help with any home warranty or details regarding KB Home development. For KB Home buyers please send any questions or concerns regarding home warranty to KB Home by emailing KB Home Customer Service at SanAntonioCS@KBHome.com or calling (210) 308-1441.

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Fall Tips for Gardening

- To minimize the likelihood of weeds this fall, do not allow weeds to go to seed.
- Plant shade trees now to take advantage of the mild fall and winter weather for root growth.
- Prepare beds to plant cool season flowers. Add compost as needed to your flowerbeds. Aerate the lawn, Edging & Mulching
- Deadhead flowering plants to stimulate more blooms.
- This is the last time to fertilize roses for the winter months. Wait until January or February to fertilize again.
- With the mild weather, it's a perfect time to plant landscapes. The cooling temperatures allow for more root growth, which will establish the plant before winter cold snaps.
- Take advantage of the weather and dig, divide and plant your spring/summer blooming perennials.
- Begin to back off on watering. With the cooler temperatures, soils stay moist longer than they did this summer. You do not want to overwater your plants. Drain irrigation System.
- Mulch all new plantings to reduce weeds, maintain soil moisture and regular soil temperatures.
- This will be the last time to do any pruning on your rose bushes until February.
- Sow bluebonnets and other wildflowers.
- After last use of your lawn mower or other power equipment, make the machines ready for winter storage. Don't leave gasoline in the machine over winter.
- Prune trees when they are dormant.

Just a friendly reminder we usually get our first freeze around Thanksgiving.

Potted plants: consider bringing them inside for the holidays to save them from a freezing death!



- Bulbs in pots do well covered with Planketts & snuggled up against your south-facing house foundation.
- Delicate plants like Spiders/ Airplane plants in pots or baskets or AloeVera should come in.
 - » When possible, place them by a window, add plant-grow bulbs in floor lamps and overhead light fixtures! If your floor is wood or carpet, lay down some plastic to catch accidental watering spills.

Holiday Safety Tips!

Test your smoke alarm and check the batteries twice a year. **A good reminder is to check the detectors when Daylight Saving Time begins in March and ends November 5th.**

- check to make sure your smoke alarms are working
- keep trees away from fireplaces, and water daily
- do not overload electrical outlets
- never leave a source of fire or heat unattended
- turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when leaving the house or going to sleep





Family celebrations, holiday lights and Christmas trees are hallmarks of the holiday season, but they also present increased fire risks that can quickly turn this festive time of year into a devastating one. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.



- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to dial 911 or your local emergency number.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.





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SAPD Blue Santa program



Information pertaining to the SAPD Blue Santa program can be found at: www.sapdbluesanta.org. There you can find information as to how to donate, as well as how a family can apply to receive gifts. If you know of a family in need, or want to coordinate a toy donation, please contact Officer Rodriguez **before December 1st**. They can schedule their big van to come out with members of their unit to pick up the toys!

Gerald.Rodriguez2@SanAntonio.gov
210-207-8126



A special note from your SAPD SAFE Officers:

SAPD patrols are informed by call volume. Anytime a resident witnesses suspicious activity or even hears loud racing going on they are encouraged to report this to the SAPD non-emergency number (210.207.7273) which helps create a log of activity. **SAPD does not monitor NextDoor. Always call 911 for an emergency, or contact the non-emergency number for other issues.**

Hello there!



**I'M YOUR
NEIGHBOR AND
YOUR LOCAL REAL
ESTATE AGENT**

Tania Tarver
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Tania.Tarver@gmail.com
Military Relocation Professional

Hablo Español
Buy • Sell • Invest • Rent

As a resident of Texas Research Park, I'm familiar with the value of our beautiful and friendly community.

I'd love to offer my services and resources to you when you decide to make a real estate move.

Feel free to send me a message if you need any assistance.



Time Dated

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Recipe Corner



How to Thaw a Turkey

<https://www.epicurious.com/collection/thanksgiving-recipes-menus-strategies-tips>

Ideally, place the frozen bird into your refrigerator upon bringing it home from the grocer—hopefully several days in advance, since it can sometimes take nearly a week to thaw completely. This is a tried-and-true method; its chief drawback remains that it's also the most time-consuming. Plan on 24 hours of fridge-thawing for every four to five pounds of turkey, says ThermoWorks; thus, for a 15-pound bird you can expect to wait about three days. (See the full timetable below.) This is best if you have an auxiliary fridge in the basement, but probably a bit inconvenient otherwise.

Another tip: You'll definitely want to set the turkey on a rimmed baking sheet or in a roasting pan while it thaws to keep any running juices contained.

How long to defrost a turkey in the refrigerator:

Thawing time is based on bird weight; again: you will know the bird is fully thawed when it reaches an internal temperature above 32°F. Per the USDA:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 to 12 pounds — 1 to 3 days | 16 to 20 pounds — 4 to 5 days |
| 12 to 16 pounds — 3 to 4 days | 20 to 24 pounds — 5 to 6 days |

The fastest way to thaw a turkey: Submerge turkey in ice water, even a 24-pound bird can be defrosted in just 12 hours (Thermoworks says to count on about 8 hours for a 15-pounder). Either submerge turkey in sink or in a bucket. Regularly check the water's temperature to make sure it never gets about 40 degrees. Monitor the proceedings as often as every half hour, and if you see the temperature venturing in that direction, add more ice to set it straight.

S'mores Cookies

1. Ready-to-bake Chocolate Chip Cookies (find them in the refrigerated aisle)
2. Mini Marshmallows
3. Milk Chocolate Melting Wafers or Chips
4. Crushed Graham Crackers



These Easy Smores Cookies are as simple as baking the store bought dough according to package instructions, add chocolate chips and graham cracker crumbs and start baking. Add the marshmallows in the last few minutes of baking. This is key. Any sooner and the marshmallows melt and totally disappear into the cookie. Continue baking the cookies with the marshmallows just until you see the marshmallows starting to get melty on the bottom edges, then pull the cookies from the oven.

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