



## National Fire Prevention Week—October 7-13

### Yale Fire Code Compliance Services Urges Residents to “Have Two Ways Out!”

If you woke up to a fire in your home, how much time do you think you would have to get out safely? According to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one-third of American households estimate that they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home became life threatening. Unfortunately, the time available is often less. That’s why Yale Fire Code Compliance Services is teaming up with NFPA during Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2012, to urge residents to “Have Two Ways Out!” This year’s theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice. In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage. A home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010. Fire is unpredictable and moves faster than most people realize. Should fire break out in your home, having a tried and true practical escape plan with two ways out is essential to ensuring your family’s safety.

Yale Fire Code Compliance Services recommends the following tips for planning your family’s escape:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they’ve escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan. Connecticut’s universal emergency number is 911.
- Have an adult sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan with everyone who lives in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and remind your family to practice the plan twice a year or whenever anyone in your home celebrates a birthday.

**Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.**

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities at Yale please contact Yale Fire Code Compliance Services at 203-432-9923. To learn more about “Have Two Ways Out!” visit NFPA’s Web site at: [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

## News and Alerts

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Emerson Tool Co. is recalling about 3.7 million Craftsman® radial arm saws for repair. These saws were sold without a guard that covers the entire blade. Users have come into contact with the blade or have been hit by pieces of wood kicked back by the saws, resulting in severe injuries.

Emerson is offering a free repair kit that provides a complete blade guard. Users should stop using their Craftsman® radial arm saws immediately and contact Emerson Tool Co. to determine if their saw is recalled and to ensure that they have proper safety and use instructions. Individuals should have the model and serial numbers of their saw available when they call.

For older model saws and others that cannot accept the new guard, Emerson will provide \$100 for the return of the saw carriage. Consumers must contact Emerson to receive a free repair kit or to return their saw carriage/motor assembly. Saws should not be returned to Sears.

The new guarding system provides a substantial safety improvement over guarding systems manufactured before 1993. Even if you have purchased a lower guard for this saw, it should still be replaced with the new guard system.

For more information, call Emerson at (800) 511-2628 anytime, or visit the firm’s web site at: [www.radialarmsawrecall.com](http://www.radialarmsawrecall.com).



# Emergency Management at Yale

**September is National Preparedness Month.** Since 9/11, the U.S. Government has taken steps to encourage all citizens to make their own emergency preparations. September was chosen as National Preparedness Month, since the tragedies of September 2001 highlighted the importance of being prepared.

Some think emergency planning is a daunting task. But that first step could be as simple as a conversation with your colleagues or family members. At dinner or around the water cooler, begin by asking where you would meet if you had to evacuate. Then continue making the plan, build a kit and stay informed!

## Make a Plan-

**On Campus:** Look for the emergency exits in your building or at other building you visit on campus. Do you know where the fire extinguishers or fire pull stations are? If your building is evacuated, do you know where your department's mustering point is? Do you have a plan if you have a mobility or other disability that would prevent you from safely evacuating? If so, students call the Resource on Disabilities Office at 203-432-2324; and faculty and staff talk to a supervisor, a building manager, or the University's Office for Equal Opportunity at 203-432-0849.

**At Home:** Where will you go if you evacuate from your home? Neighborhood? Community? What is your communications plan? Do you care for children or elderly or someone with special needs? Do you yourself have a special medical or mobility need that requires the assistance from a family member? Do you have pets?

**Build a Kit** – Yale Emergency Management at <http://emergency.yale.edu> has a brochure that you can download with a handy checklist of items you should consider for your kit. The brochure includes a list for your "office or dorm room." Consider the idea of slowly building your kit: each time you go to the supermarket, buy a couple of additional items. Before you know it, you will have your very own emergency kit!

**Be informed-** Many communities in Connecticut have a system similar to our Yale Alert. Contact your local Office of Emergency Management or town hall to learn how to receive notifications. On campus, make sure that your contact information is up-to-date. If you are a student, check or update your information in the Student Information System. If you are faculty or staff, update your information through the Yale Portal. One of my favorite ways to stay informed during an emergency is a weather radio. They are not expensive and the radio is silent until there is a weather watch or warning in the area.

Many experts say that you should be prepared for three to five days; some say up to a full week. Consider what our hazards are in Connecticut and decide what would be best for you and your family. For those of you living on campus, preparation activities are on-going. In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions provided to you through the Yale Alert.

If you have any questions or would like more information on preparedness, visit <http://emergency.yale.edu>. Another great resource is [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov); this site will walk you through each step of the process.

## Office of Environmental Health & Safety

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EVALUATION • RESPONSE • PREVENTION  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT • TRAINING

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# Rules of the Road



**MAKE YOURSELF VISIBLE THROUGH YOUR CHOICE OF CLOTHING AND GEAR. IT'S VERY INEXPENSIVE INSURANCE.**

Not only is driving without your headlights on potentially negligent and dangerous – it's illegal in Connecticut!

Those who think they can drive their vehicles in the rain, fog and snow without headlights on, think again. Connecticut state law requires headlights be turned on in the following conditions: (1) at any time from a half-hour after sunset to a half-hour before sunrise, (2) at any time when due to insufficient light or unfavorable atmospheric conditions, persons and vehicles on the highway are not clearly discernible at a distance of five hundred feet ahead, and (3) at any time during periods of precipitation, including, but not limited to, periods of snow, rain or fog (CGS § 14-96 a (a)).

Pedestrians and bicyclists can be invisible without lights and reflectors. While riding, use a white front light and a red rear light on your bike, add reflectors and wear high visibility clothing. If you're walking, remember to walk towards oncoming traffic and wear reflective clothing when walking at night or in poor visibility.

## Incident Report

### Description: Acid Spill—August 2012

During delivery to a research building, a box containing a 500 ml bottle of formic acid fell off a cart onto the sidewalk. The bottle inside the box broke and some contents of the bottle leaked onto the building entry sidewalk.

### Resolution:

Yale Police and EHS were notified and responded by cordoning the area, applying a commercial neutralizer product, and cleaning up the the neutralized residue. The amount of spilled acid was small, readily contained, and had no impact on people or the environment.

### Lessons Learned:

Although more hazardous acids are sold only in safety coated bottles that shatter instead of breaking if dropped, some are not. EHS and the stockrooms are reviewing bottle options for all corrosive liquids. They are reviewing delivery locations for all buildings and stockrooms. Delivery staff will be re-trained on packaging, handling, and transporting hazardous chemicals.