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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The City of Kerrville joins International Code Council for the celebration of Building Safety Month 2025**

**Kerrville, Texas (April 28, 2025)** – Throughout the month of May, the City of Kerrville will participate in the 45th annual Building Safety Month, a worldwide campaign presented by the International Code Council, its members, and partners to promote building safety. This year's campaign, "Game On!" encourages people to get involved in all aspects of building safety. The campaign also makes the connection between



building codes and personal safety, as well as the important work done by building safety professionals in our communities.

This year's campaign addresses how building safety impacts everyone on a personal, local, and global level.

- Week 1: The Warm Up, May 1–3, highlights how building safety impacts our daily lives including the places where we work, learn, and play.

- Week 2: May 4–10, highlights Electrical Safety in the home
- Week 3: May 11–17 encourages preparation for natural hazards such as severe weather, wildfires, earthquakes.

- Week 4: May 18–24 Fire Safety Tips
- Week 5: Going Into Overtime, May 25–31, highlights backyard safety

Learn more about Building Safety Month at [www.buildingsafetymonth.org](http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org) or join the conversation on social media using #BuildingSafety365.

**ELECTRICITY SAFETY TIPS**  
From Your Building Inspector



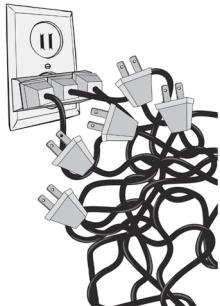
**Don't Let Electrical Cords Create a Danger in Your House!**

Overloaded receptacle outlets and undersized electrical extension cords can cause a fire or electrocution danger.

**Use Electrical Cords Safely**

- Never overload electrical cords or power strips. Electrical cords and power strips have a designated load capacity. Be sure the total amount of energy used by appliances and lights plugged into the cord or strip does not exceed that capacity.
- Check all plug in appliances and devices to see if they have a listed tag, either as a stamp or sticker on the device, or a tag on the power cord. Listed appliances provide assurance that the device meets product safety standards. (See [OSHA website](#) for a list of nationally-recognized testing laboratories.)
- Don't use appliances that have damaged cords.
- Extension cords should not be used as a substitute for permanently wired receptacle outlets.

Electrical cords must be the proper wire size for the load they serve. Overloaded cords will become hot and can start a fire. Avoid permanent use of extension cords. Appliance cords and extension cords are subject to physical damage from foot traffic, house pets, swinging doors and many other causes, so protect them from damage. Contact your local building safety department for more information.





[www.buildingsafetymonth.org](http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org) | #BuildingSafety365

 **12 WAYS TO PREPARE**

<input type="checkbox"/>  Sign up for Alerts and Warnings	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make a Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Save for a Rainy Day	<input type="checkbox"/>  Practice Emergency Drills	<input type="checkbox"/>  Test Family Communication Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Safeguard Documents
<input type="checkbox"/>  Plan with Neighbors	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make Your Home Safer	<input type="checkbox"/>  Know Evacuation Routes	<input type="checkbox"/>  Assemble or Update Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>  Get Involved in Your Community	<input type="checkbox"/>  Document and Insure Property

## 10 IMPORTANT TIPS

To Remember For Fire Safety And Awareness



- 1 Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. Put a smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
- 2 Make sure your smoke alarms work. Test your smoke alarms. When you push the test button, you should hear a loud noise. If you don't hear the noise, you need a new battery or a new alarm.
- 3 Make sure the smoke alarm always has a good battery. Put a new battery in the alarm every year.
- 4 Smoke alarms with long-life batteries will work for up to 10 years. You do not change the battery.
- 5 Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace every 10 years. Newer smoke alarms provide the 10 year date.
- 6 Tell your family what to do if they hear the smoke alarm. Make an escape plan so everyone knows how to get out fast. Pick a meeting place outside the home where everyone will meet. Some children and older adults cannot hear the smoke alarm when they are sleeping. Make a plan for how to wake them up. Practice your escape plan with everyone in your family two times each year.
- 7 Install home fire sprinklers in your home. Home fire sprinklers and working smoke alarms greatly increase your chance of surviving a fire. Sprinklers are affordable and they can increase your property value and lower your insurance rates.
- 8 Portable heaters should be avoided but where used they need their space. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away.

If you live in an area where homes are located in or close to forests or vegetation areas, you should think about the following safety tips:

- 9 Install 1/8 inch or smaller, noncombustible corrosion-resistant mesh screening that cannot burn on attic/soffit vents and around wood decks to keep out embers. Install spark arrestors on fire place chimneys or wood stove vents.
- 10 Keep all items that can burn away from your home. Clean leaves from your gutters. Clear dead leaves and branches from shrubs and trees.

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## 10 IMPORTANT TIPS

To Remember For Backyard and Pool Safety



- 1 Make sure all pedestrian gates in the barrier fence for your pool are self-closing and self-latching. Other gates should be equipped with a locking device and should be locked. Gates should swing outwards away from the pool.
- 2 Remove all chairs, tables, large toys, pool equipment or other objects within 45 inch radius of fence that would allow a child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over the pool isolation fence. Chain link fences should have a mesh opening of 1 1/2 inches or smaller. Repair any opening in fencing that would allow the passage of a 4 inch diameter sphere.
- 3 Reaching and throwing aids like poles should be kept on both sides of the pool. These items should remain stationary and not be misplaced through play activities.
- 4 All pool and hot tub drains (suction outlets) must have a cover or grate that meets industry standards for suction fittings marked to indicate compliance with ANSI/AI/ASME A112.19.8 2007 (Suction Fittings For Use in Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs) or the successor standard ANSI/APSP/ICC 16-2017 (Suction Outlet Fitting Assemblies For Use in Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs). Check to see that these covers are not broken or in disrepair, and that they are anchored firmly over the drain openings. The pool should be closed immediately when broken, missing or noncompliant suction outlet drain covers are first noticed.
- 5 Install a pool alarm to detect accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. While the alarm provides an immediate warning, it is not a substitute for the barrier fences, door alarms and safety covers required by the code.
- 6 Install either an automatic or manually operated, approved safety cover to completely block access to water in the pool, spa or hot tub. The covers should comply with ASTM F1346 (Standard Performance Specification for Safety Covers and Labeling Requirements for All Covers for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs). Never allow anyone to stand or play on a pool cover.
- 7 Check for warning signs of an unsafe deck, including loose or wobbly railings or support beams, missing or loose screws that connect a deck to the house, corrosion, rot and cracks.
- 8 Where present, a barbecue grill shall be placed away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Do not use grills in a garage, porch or enclosed area that could trap carbon monoxide. Never grill on top of anything that can easily burn.
- 9 Keep children away from grills when in use. Establish a safety zone around the grill and instruct the children to remain outside of the zone. A chalk line works great for this purpose. Never leave the grill unattended.
- 10 When grilling, have a fire extinguisher, a garden hose or several gallons of water close by in case of a fire.

Pool Safety

Deck & Grill Safety

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