



CATHOLIC  
MUTUAL GROUP

Fall 2022

COMMITMENT + EXPERTISE + STABILITY

## The Catholic Mutual Connection

### October is Fire Prevention Month

With so much happening in the day-to-day operations of your parish, it can be easy to overlook the smaller tasks, such as maintaining your portable fire extinguishers. However, it's critically important to follow proper safety protocols to ensure your fire extinguishers work effectively, if needed.



Portable fire extinguishers should be inspected, serviced, and tagged annually by a trained and qualified technician from a reputable company. Fire extinguishers should be wall-mounted in a visible and unobstructed location near an exit door.

The top of the extinguisher should not be more than 5' from the floor, and the bottom of the extinguisher not less than 4" from the ground. A fire extinguisher should be accessible from any part of the building within 75 feet. In a kitchen, the fire extinguisher should be 30-50 feet from any point, depending on the type of extinguisher used.

In the event of a fire, follow the PASS method:

P: Pull the pin

A: Aim the nozzle or hose

S: Squeeze the handle

S: Sweep from side to side, cover the base of the fire

Brush up on your fire extinguisher knowledge and the details of the PASS method with the information provided in our [CARES document](#).

**Daylight Savings Time will end at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 6th.**  
Remember to set your clocks back one hour, and also check and replace batteries in your smoke and CO detectors.

## Safety Tip



### St. Killians Candle System

While the [St. Killians Candle System](#) is designed to reduce the risk of smoke, soot, and fire damage, it must be used and maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations. Wax in the water tray must be emptied twice per week, water levels in the reservoir should be maintained at a depth of at least 2 inches, and the reservoir needs to be checked on a regular basis for the removal of any foreign objects. Proper maintenance of your St. Killians system will ensure a safe, clean, and beautiful candle system your parish will enjoy.

## Common Fire Hazards Found During Inspections

Our extensive knowledge of inspection dos and don'ts has provided us with insight into the most often overlooked fire hazards. The following are common mistakes and hazards we find at locations during our onsite inspections:

- Using vinyl dryer vents instead of metal vent piping and forgetting to clean lint traps following each use. [Overheated Clothes Dryer Cause Fires](#)
- Less than 3' clearance of storage maintained around electrical panels, water heater, and furnace.
- Less than 6' clearance of storage maintained around boilers.
- Storing flammables such as paints, paint thinner, WD40, and other aerosols in boiler/mechanical rooms.
- Storing propane tanks indoors. [Propane Tanks](#)
- Improper use of candles. [Candle Safety](#)
- Misuse of extension cords and daisy-chaining power strips. [Electrical Fire Safety](#)

Fixing these fire hazards now will not only save time and headaches during your inspection; it will make your parish a safer place for everyone to work and worship.

## Connect with CMG Connect!

We are constantly updating our online trainings on CMG Connect to ensure that CMG members have the information they need to minimize their risk exposure. Please don't forget to visit [CMG Connect](#) regularly for timely new content... and please don't hesitate to share it with others who would benefit from the information.

To view this newsletter on our website, please click [here](#).

For more helpful information, please visit the [Catholic Mutual Groupnewsletter archives](#).

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