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Aloha,

The National Association of REALTORS and all REALTOR Associations annually recognize September as 'REALTOR SAFETY MONTH'. We believe that as an organization, it's important for everyone, not only REALTORS to practice safety.

In the past 18 months, with Covid, we've heard a lot about health safety at large gatherings, at work and at school. With the holidays approaching, we felt it would be appropriate to focus on home safety.

- Home Safety Measures
 - Keep exit areas clear of clutter.
 - Always practice escape plans with minor children.
 - Keep hazardous cleaning supplies safely and properly stored.
 - Keep cabinet doors and drawers closed
- Home Security Measures
 - Install exterior motion detector lights and/or video cameras
 - Make sure your doors are locked or install an electrical locking system
 - Install and maintain fire and/or smoke alarm systems. Check and replace your batteries annually.
 - Be aware of your surroundings
- Practice Fire Safety in the Kitchen
 - Never leave cooking unattended and keep stoves and counter surfaces free of clutter, grease and especially flammable objects.
 - Be sure to set a timer that will alert you when cooking is complete since it is easy to forget.
 - Assure all your appliances are off or unplugged when not in use
- Eliminate electrical risks. There are many homes within our community that are over 40 years old. These homes may not be able to withstand the stress of the appliances on the electrical system.
 - Do not overload power strips and/or extension cords.
 - Replace damaged or frayed wires and cords
 - Replace old or faulty appliances.
 - Follow the correct procedures when replacing light bulbs.
 - Hire a licensed certified electrician to do your repairs
- Always practice proper food safety

- Make sure your kitchen is clean and adequately maintained, and be sure to avoid contaminating food by keeping raw meat and fish away from veggies.
 - Keep your hands washed when handling raw meats, and to avoid injuries, carefully handle knives and other sharp cooking utensils.
- Emergency response items. Should there be a need to evacuate your home immediately, or respond to a medical emergency, your home should have medical necessities in an easy-to-access location. These items include:
 - A first aid kit complete with band-aids, gauze, anti-bacterial wipes, eye patches, pain-reliever, etc.
 - Medications (prescription or over the counter)
 - Inhalers, if necessary

Teaching your children about these simple home safety rules are important to everyone. Be safe and prepared as the holiday season approaches us.

Sincerely,
Karen Ono
Association Executive