Important Home Fire Safety Tips:

- Replace smoke detector and carbon monoxide (CO) batteries at least once a year.
- Replace smoke detectors every 10 years and CO detectors every 7 years.
- Extinguishers in the home should be rated for Class ABC fires and be replaced every 7 years.
- Do not use water, flour, or towels to extinguish a grease fire. Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Extension cords should only be used for short time use, not as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- Grills should be kept clear of exterior walls and should not be left unattended when being used.
- If you are building or remodeling a home, install a home fire sprinkler system for a reliable, affordable, and effective fire protection system in conjunction with smoke detectors.

Learn More About Safety:

www.urbandale.org - UFD website
www.nfpa.org - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
www.homefiresprinkler.org - Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
www.usfa.dhs.gov - United States Fire Administration (USFA)
www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/ - Iowa State Fire Marshal

Home Fire Safety Checklist

This home fire damage in Urbandale was caused by combustibles that were stored too close to an ignition source.

3927 121st St.
Urbandale, IA 50323
Phone: 515.278.3970
Email: fire@urbandale.org
www.facebook.com/urbandalefiredepartment

Damage from an unattended cooking fire in Urbandale.
The following is a list of home fire safety questions that require circling “YES” or “NO” answers. Complete the list and see the helpful safety tips on the next page. Involve the entire family so everyone knows what to do

Exterior of the Home:
1. Are your address numbers clearly visible? Y or N
2. Do you have a gas or charcoal grill? Y or N
   - If gas, do you regularly check for gas leaks? Y or N
   - If charcoal, do you properly dispose of charcoal briquettes? Y or N
3. Is there clear access to the gas meter on your house? Y or N
4. If one is present, is there clear access around the fire hydrant? Y or N

Interior—Living Areas:
9. Are extension cords only used for short time use appliances? Y or N
10. Are fireplaces in good working order? Y or N
   - If wood burning, is it professionally cleaned & inspected annually? Y or N
11. Is there at least one smoke detector on each floor? Y or N
   - Are batteries replaced at least once a year? Y or N
   - Are detectors less than 10 years old? Y or N
12. Are all smoke detectors tested monthly? Y or N
13. Is there a Carbon Monoxide detector in the home? Y or N
   - If yes, is it less than 7 years old? Y or N
   - Has the battery been replaced in the last year? Y or N
14. Is there at least one extinguisher centrally located in the home? Y or N
   - If ABC rated and less than 7 years old? Y or N
15. Are windows & doors accessible and easy to open? Y or N
16. Are handrails and railings in the home present and secure? Y or N
17. Are there any obvious trip hazards that can be easily eliminated? Y or N
18. Do you have and practice a home fire escape plan? Y or N

Interior—Utility/Mechanical Areas
19. Are combustibles clear from around the water heater and furnace? Y or N
20. Is the furnace professionally cleaned & inspected annually? Y or N

Develop and Practice a Home Fire Escape Plan!
♦ Know 2 ways out of each area of your house!
♦ If you have a basement egress window, do you know how to open it?
♦ Everyone in the home must know where the meeting place is once you are outside.
♦ Never call 911 from inside a building that is on fire. Use a cell phone outside or use a neighbor’s phone.
♦ Everyone living in the home should review and practice the plan at least twice a year!

(FLOUR, WATER, BAKING SODA, AND WET TOWELS ARE NOT CORRECT ANSWERS TO #8)