

SUMMER SAFETY

HOME SAFETY TIPS



With children and teens spending more time at home during the summer, it is vital that parents have conversations about the different risks that exist in the home.

PREVENTION



Home Alone:

- **Set rules** for going outside, using the computer, having friends over, screen time, etc.
- Create a **schedule** for your child so they know what to expect, including times to check in.
- Leave a list of **emergency contacts** and guidelines of who is welcome in the home.
- Use a **door viewer** before opening your door. Always request identification and/or licensing from strangers.



Hiring a Sitter:

- There is no legal babysitting age in Texas. The Red Cross recommends a minimum babysitting age of 11 to 15 years old and offers babysitting classes for kids starting at the age of 11.
- Before hiring, check databases including the National Sex Offender registry for criminal history.
- Listen to your child if they disclose **disapproval of the sitter or feel uncomfortable** with the sitter.



Cooking Safety:

- **Remain in the kitchen** while cooking.
- **Test smoke alarms** regularly.
- **Do not try to extinguish grease fires with water.** If possible, smother the flames with the pot lid or a flat baking sheet.
- Turn pot or pan handles **toward the back of the stove** so it is not accidentally knocked over.

PARTNERS & RESOURCES

- **American Red Cross:** Provides resources for parents on child care, First Aid and others. redcross.org
- **Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston:** provides enrichment experiences, academic tutoring and child care for the Houston area. bgcgh.org