

Fire Safety

2015 HDT Rally

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Resources

- Fire Suppression Section: www.jackdanmayer.com
- Mac McCoy's website: <http://www.macthefireguy.com>
- Fire Fight Products: <http://www.firefightproducts.com>
- Fire Command extinguisher:
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00LN6S42G?psc=1>

RV Fire Statistics

- Difficult to identify good data – National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) type 136/137
 - About 10,000 RV fires per year.
 - About 8.9 million RV's on the road (RVIA)
-
- About HALF of the fires are while parked. (*RV Alliance America*)
 - 70% start in engine compartments.
 - 20% are tire or brake fires. And these are usually undetected until too late.
 - 25% of RV fires are in the 12-volt electrical system. (*National Interstate*)



Prevention

- Obvious things
 - Don't use cooktop to heat with !
 - Keep portable heaters away from flammables
 - Don't leave things on the stove unattended
 - Don't leave your electric fireplace on unattended

Prevention

- Maybe not so obvious.....
 - Make sure your shore power cord is undamaged

Burned Shore Power Cord



Burned Shore Power Cord

The “Other” End



Prevention

- Maybe not so obvious.....
 - Make sure your shore power cord is undamaged
 - Check battery lug torque during battery maintenance
 - Make SURE you have a catastrophe fuse on inverter/battery line
 - Don't use cheap electric heaters – use quality ceramic heaters
 - Properly service your furnace and refrigerator (“out of sight – out of mind”)
 - Make sure you have good tires, brakes, bearings

Prevention

- Maybe not so obvious.....
 - Tighten electrical box, generator, inverter and transfer switch lugs yearly



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Detection

- Smoke, propane and carbon monoxide detectors need testing – they may not work!
- **Always** replace detectors after 5 years. Test function does not guarantee proper operation.
- Make sure you use RV approved smoke detectors – they are different than residential ones.

Detection

- Mac McCoy recommends the dual-sensor, battery-operated smoke alarm by Kidde, which uses both photoelectric and ionization sensors. This detects smoldering fires better.
- Get a CO detector that has a digital readout.



Get these on Mac's website

Detection

- Use tire monitors – many fires start from undetected blown tires
- Experts say that in an RV you have 90 seconds before the fire is uncontrollable. You must be able to knock it down fast.

Get OUT of the RV and STAY OUT!!!

Firefighting

Extinguishers

- Extinguisher classes
 - Class A: ordinary combustibles like paper
 - Class B: flammable liquids like gas, oil
 - Class C: electrical
- RVs require class B:C
- Better for all extinguishers to be class A:B:C
- Common RV extinguisher is a dry chemical; a “foam” extinguisher is better (wetting agents)
- Look at *ColdFire* and *FireAde 2000* extinguishers that use advanced suppression agents
- Extinguisher source
 - Mac McCoy <http://www.macthefireguy.com>
 - Amazon – but Mac’s site is preferred
 - Home Stores sometimes have foam extinguishers

Firefighting

Extinguishers

- Have a minimum of four extinguishers
 - Kitchen area
 - Bedroom
 - Outside compartment (unlocked)
 - Truck DOT compliant extinguisher (in truck)
- Maintain your extinguishers; pressure, date, settling
- **Must have** an advanced extinguisher for tire/brake fires – outside compartment extinguisher (ColdFire, FireAde, etc.)

Firefighting

What If the Neighboring RV Catches Fire?



Spare hose for water-down.

Firefighting Refrigerators

- There are MANY fires
- They are hard to detect before serious damage
- IMO you need automatic extinguishing
- We recommend a halon extinguisher that deploys at 165* - about \$185
- ColdFire auto-extinguisher would be equally effective



This fire caused \$100,000 of damage to a \$600,000 coach

Consider a residential refrigerator

Halon Extinguisher



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Halon Extinguisher



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Other Preparation

- Escape plan and discussion
- Have you opened your bedroom escape window?
- Can you climb out? Can you get to the ground?
- Are you sure of where your extinguishers are?
- If driving, can you “separate” your rig or toad FAST? Does your equipment operate easily? Can you act as a team?
- Do you know where you are?



Where Am I?

Fire ***Go Bag***

Your Safety Net

- Not a “preppers” bag, or wilderness/urban survival bag. Not a 72-hr. bag. Relatively small and **specific to Fire**.
- Typically kept in bedroom (or in vehicle)
- Important papers in fireproof safe? Copies of drivers license and important papers? Scanned and offsite storage in “cloud”?
- Sample Fire Go Bag is [here](#).

Fire *Go Bag*

What's in Mine?

- First Aid supplies, including trauma pack, eyewash, burn supplies
- Three days of prescription medications. Dog medications.
- Money, Copies (DL, Titles, permits, etc), Flashdrive with backups, logins, credit card info
- Keys
- Basic clothing: 1 change of everything, shoes, light jacket, stocking cap
- Basic tools: flashlight, headlamp, prybar, knife, gloves, space blankets, glasses, dog slip lead
- Food: just some energy bars and two water bottles

Don't Let This Be YOU!
Be Prepared



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