



LA MADERA DISTRICT 16 SANDOVAL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Serving Sandoval County's East Mountain Communities | LaMaderaFire.org

Joe Gober, District Chief



December 2018 Community Update: Close Before You Doze

Hello Neighbors:

Did you know closing the door to your bedroom can save your life? The La Madera Fire District is working with UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI) to spread a life-saving message: "Close Before You Doze."

A demonstration and reactions were captured and can be viewed at <https://LaMaderaFire.org/doors> and an informational flyer on the benefits of a closed door in case of fire is attached on the next page.

Closing your doors is more important than ever, as evolutions in home furnishings, layouts, and construction over the last 40 years have reduced the average time to escape a home fire from 17 minutes to three minutes or less. A September 2018 report by the National Fire Protection Association concluded that residents are more likely to die in a home fire today than in 1980.

In the recent UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI) consumer survey of 3,204 adults across the U.S., less than half of respondents believe that in the event of a fire, it's safer to have their bedroom door closed, and only 29 percent always sleep with their door closed. Only 17 percent of those who sleep with their door closed for safety do so because they think it's safer in a fire. Of those who sleep with the door open for safety, 52 percent do so because they mistakenly think it's safer in case of a fire.

Understanding how important it is for people to see for themselves how significant of an impact a closed door can have in a house fire, UL FSRI gathered a group of unsuspecting everyday people to ask them about their safety concerns and what they perceive to be true about house fires. The group was introduced to Steve Kerber and his team, then witnessed a house burned with one-bedroom door open and one closed. Following the demonstration, the group was able to tour the house and see the real-life impact of a closed door compared to an open door.

"As fire service researchers and professionals, we encourage people to [take several precautions](#) and have [an evacuation plan](#) but closing doors at night is one simple and quick routine that anyone can adopt right now," said Steve Kerber, director of the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute. "It is a very simple behavior change that can help save your life and your loved ones."

Happy Holidays from all of us at the La Madera Fire District,

Joe Gober

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CLISE
BEFORE YOU DOZE

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IT'S TIME TO ADD "CLOSE YOUR DOOR" TO YOUR FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

You know how important it is to have working smoke alarms, escape plans, and a designated meeting place in case of a fire. But did you know that closing your doors in your home is also important for your safety? Closed doors can reduce fire growth, limit damage to your home, keep temperatures down, and can even save your life if you become trapped.

DID YOU KNOW?

Because of synthetic materials, furniture and construction, fire spreads faster than ever before.*

*NIST Technical Note 1455-1, February 2008



MAKE A 900 DEGREE DIFFERENCE - A closed door can mean reducing 1,000 degrees down to 100 degrees.



TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH - During a fire, a closed door can keep carbon monoxide levels at 1,000 PPM versus 10,000 PPM if the door is left open.



TAKE A BREATH - A fire needs oxygen to burn. A closed door keeps more oxygen in the room and away from the fire. When you exit a fire, make sure to close your door behind you to slow down its growth.



DOZE SAFELY - 50% of home fire deaths happen between 11pm and 7am. Closing your doors before you hit the hay helps keep you safe.

Learn more at closeyourdoor.org

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