

## Ten Tips For Fire Safety

### 1. Install And Maintain Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors warn you of a fire in time for you to escape. Install them on each level of your home and outside of each sleeping area. Test them every month, following the manufacturer's directions. Replace batteries once a year or whenever a detector chirps to signal that the batteries are low. Don't ever borrow detector batteries for other use, a disabled smoke detector can't save your life! For complete home protection, consider installing automatic fire sprinklers in addition to your smoke detectors.

### 2. Plan And Practice To Escape

If fire breaks out in your home, you have to get out fast. With your family, plan two ways out of every room. Fire escape routes must not use elevators, which might take you right to the fire. Choose a meeting place outside where everyone will gather. Once you are out, stay out. At least twice a year, have the whole family practice the escape plan.

### 3. Smokers Need Watchers

Carelessly discarded cigarettes are the leading cause of fire deaths in North America. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy. Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers and put water on butts before discarding them. Before going to bed or leaving home, check under and around sofa

cushions for smoldering cigarettes.

### 4. Be Careful While Cooking

Never leave cooking unattended. Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles, and wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep the handles of your pots turned inward so the pots can't be knocked or pulled over. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames, then turn off the burner. Never put foil or other metals in a microwave oven.

### 5. Space Heaters Need Space

Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.

Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed and keep children and pets well away from them.

### 6. Matches And Lighters Are Tools

In the hands of a child, matches or lighters are deadly. Use child-resistant lighters, and store all matches and lighters up high where kids can't reach them, preferably in a locked cabinet. Teach your children from the start that matches and lighters are tools for adults, not toys for kids. If children find matches or lighters, they should tell an adult immediately.

### 7. Cool A Burn

If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound in cool water

for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately.

### 8. Use Electricity Safely

If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed. Don't overload extension cords or run them under rugs. Don't tamper with the fuse box or use fuses of an improper size.

### 9. Crawl Low Under Smoke

Smoke is dangerous! If you encounter smoke, use an alternate escape route. If you must exit through smoke, the cleanest air will be 12 to 24 inches above the floor. Crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest safe exit.

### 10. Stop, Drop And Roll

Everyone should know this rule. If your clothes catch fire, don't run. Stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands to protect your face and lungs and roll over and over to smother the flames.

If you are unsure about a hazard or an unsafe practice, or have questions we can help you with, please call the Portland Bureau of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services - 823-3700.

**Remember: You Can Have A Free Blood Pressure Screening At Your Local Fire Station**

## Keys To The Kingdom, V, Conclusion

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

Many have wondered; it was this set of incredible business experiences culminating in the Los Angeles exposures that got me on the Portland State University faculty without a degree in business -- but sitting next to Harvard and Stanford graduates at faculty meetings. Those business schools were seldom able to bring to bear the intensity and realism of my experiences. They have began to change of late.

In the Los Angeles Accounting practice I met scores of brilliant blacks who made lots of money but were given no real power in the scheme of things; a landlord of mine who underwrote second, third and fourth deeds, financing them through overseas investors attracted by glowing ads in European newspapers (he owned a stable of race horses until the feds busted him on a currency technicality -- 'they' never let you get too big). His partner organized radio-dispatched teams of accountants with bags of money and completed paperwork the day before your foreclosure. A friend of mine adopted a Hebrew Surname and went on to dominate T.V. tube replacement business on the west coast - still does.

The whole thing was a seething maelstrom of commerce, lego and illegal. Most public scales were "owned" by certain corporations, scores of clubs and restaurants were financed by mobs who got the coin machine concessions in return. You believed blacks were going to achieve economic parity within a generation. I could go on for days, listing both the white and black companies for which

I worked as part of a deliberate effort to gain the skills necessary to create large scale and diversified black-owned economic units. Other young African Americans had the same idea, so what happened? The world was bigger and meaner than we thought.

There was the "Hartman Jewelry Chain" where as the inventory accountant, I sat before a huge safe filled with millions of dollars in diamonds and other precious stones and metals, issuing them out to the "old-world craftsmen" who worked in the heavily-guarded backrooms creating stunning designs (white firm). Last week I described the "patriarch" method of business development, I found that the 'old man' also owned the "Stanley Lawrence Catalog Discount House" where I was transferred after a couple years, again in inventory control, and supervising 14, mostly female, clerks. Firm sold by mail order.

After two years I could quote you from memory the price structure and shipping particulars for jewelry and watches, garden equipment, automotive accessories, boating and camping equipment, silverware, sporting equipment, cookware. Most goods are ordered the previous spring, mostly at merchandise shows back east and are paid for with "post-dated checks" in the hundreds of thousands -- the money is always in the bank by January 15th after the Christmas sales. Some firms are so big they have their own post office sub-branch and on-site banking facilities. There is, of course, much other "inside knowledge" about business that is not known by the public or most faculty

in the field. For instance, the thousands of watches in a current style which are not sold are not returned to the manufacturer for credit. They are made so cheaply they can be smashed and stored in crates until after Christmas at which time this 'scra is "sold by the pound" to a dealer who also certifies that the store is indeed due credit for unsold merchandise. So you see that many of us 'youngsters' were learning of fantastic threads of commerce that reached across continents, nations and cultures. We blacks could work, but not own at this level.

Interestingly, the discount house was owned by Jews and the company received scores of dirty, racist letters from small store owners in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada. Local residents were buying from the catalog at prices for name brands the store owners couldn't meet. They would end up buying from the catalog. Are you beginning to get the idea that the deck is stacked against all "little guys" who do not cooperate with each other to pool wealth, knowledge and other resources.

We hope this lesson is absorbed by a new generation of African Americans who see careers in accounting or law as keys to the kingdom". Cities like Chicago are filled with tens-of-thousands of skilled black workers with generations of experience-- but after a hundred years you don't see them "owning" these type manufacturing facilities. The answer is simple! Companies hire skilled, "loyal" blacks because they are not going to spin off and compete--they know the banks won't finance them and Realtors won't lease.

## Oregon HEAT's Home Energy Assistance Program

Envelops urging Pacific Power customers to lend a hand to help their neighbors stay warm this winter are now arriving in monthly electricity bills.

Pacific Power is a participating member in Oregon HEAT's home energy assistance program, which helps local low-income and unemployed residents pay their heating bills.

"This winter, there will be many individuals and families trying to deal with sickness, unemployment or other crises, who won't be able to pay their home heating bill," said Pacific

Power manager Carl Talton.

"Fortunately, there is a way all Oregonians can help -- Oregon HEAT."

Oregon HEAT is a state-wide fuel fund that provides those in need with emergency fuel assistance and offers energy counseling to help them manage their energy use more efficiently. The program is available to all Pacific Power customers, regardless of how they heat their home.

Each year, Pacific Power stockholders match the contributions made to the program by customers. Thousands of families who have faced

heating emergencies have been helped in this way. Contributions are tax-deductible.

"This is a community-based program, which means that all donations collected from this community help local families pay their heating bills," explained Talton. "It's neighbor helping neighbor and it's something our customers have supported enthusiastically."

All funds are dispersed by local social service agencies, which determine eligibility on a case by case basis and ensure that those in need receive assistance.

## City Cuts Heating Bills For Local Families

Commissioner Mike Lindberg announced the continuation of the 1994-95 City of Portland Block-By-Block Weatherization Program.

There will be a Free Energy and Environment Fair for the Humboldt, Boise and Woodlawn neighborhoods, held at the Jefferson High School at 5210 N. Kerby from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, November 19.

The Energy and Environment Fair is an opportunity for low income households living in single family

homes (either owners or renters) to sign up for a free energy audit and weatherization program that includes Free ceiling, floor or wall insulation. "Families will save up to \$100 a year and their homes will be warmer and more comfortable, too," said Commissioner Lindberg.

Booths, displays and video presentations will highlight ways neighborhood residents can improve their home comfort and save money on their energy bills. There will also be

information provided on home security, recycling, environmental practices for the home and financial topics.

Susan Anderson, Portland Energy Office Director, indicated that, "The first 250 families to attend the Fair and on-site Energy Workshop will receive free do-it-yourself weatherization kits worth \$75, including inside plastic storm windows, door weatherstrip and sweep, thermometer, clear tape and rope caulk."



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