

In the dry, summer months, risk of fire increases. Read these important preventative steps to help you secure your home from **fire**.

Note: In doubt concerning the safety of your family, call your local Fire Department and ask for them to complete a "Fire & Safety" inspection of your home/property. Ask your neighbors to do this with you . . . "Is it not better to be Safe than Sorry?"

The following are things you can do to protect yourself, Your family and your property in the event of a fire:

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms. Properly working smoke alarms decrease your chances of dying in a fire by half.
- Place smoke alarms on every level of your residence. Place them outside bedrooms on the ceiling or high on the wall (4 to 12 inches from ceiling), at the top of open stairways, or at the bottom of enclosed stairs and near (but not in) the kitchen.
- Test and clean smoke alarms once a month and replace batteries at least once a year. Replace smoke alarms once every 10 years.

Escaping the Fire

- Review escape routes with your family. Practice escaping from each room.
- Make sure windows are not nailed or painted shut. Make sure security gratings on windows have a fire safety opening feature so they can be easily opened from the inside.
- Consider escape ladders if your residence has more than one level, and ensure that burglar bars and other anti theft mechanisms that block outside window entry are easily opened from the inside.
- Teach family members to stay low to the floor (where the air is safer in a fire) when escaping from a fire.
- Clean out storage areas. Do not let trash, such as old newspapers and magazines, accumulate.



Ron Hidalgo, REALTOR®/Broker Since 1984.

Flammable Items

- Never use gasoline, benzines, naphtha, or similar flammable liquids indoors.
- Store flammable liquids in approved containers in well-ventilated storage areas.
- Never smoke near flammable liquids.
- Discard all rags or materials that have been soaked in flammable liquids after you have used them. Safely discard them outdoors in a metal container.
- Insulate chimneys and place spark arresters on top. The chimney should be at least three feet higher than the roof. Remove branches hanging above and around the chimney.

Heating Sources

- Be careful when using alternative heating sources.
- Check with your local fire department on the legality of using kerosene heaters in your community. Be sure to fill kerosene heaters outside, and be sure they have cooled.
- Place heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials. Make sure the floor and nearby walls are properly insulated.
- Use only the type of fuel designated for your unit and follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Store ashes in a metal container outside and away from your residence.
- Keep open flames away from walls, furniture, drapery, and flammable items.
- Keep a screen in front of the fireplace.
- Have heating units inspected and cleaned annually by a certified specialist.

Matches and Smoking

- Keep matches and lighters up high, away from children, and, if possible, in a locked cabinet.
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy or medicated. Provide smokers with deep, sturdy ashtrays. Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before disposal.

Electrical Wiring

- Have the electrical wiring in your residence checked by an electrician.
- Inspect extension cords for frayed or exposed wires or loose plugs.
- Make sure outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring.
- Make sure wiring does not run under rugs, over nails, or across high-traffic areas.
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets. If you need to plug in two or three appliances, get a UL-approved unit with built-in circuit breakers to prevent sparks and short circuits.
- Make sure insulation does not touch bare electrical wiring.

Other

- Sleep with your door closed.
- Install A-B-C-type fire extinguishers in your residence and teach family members how to use them.
- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your residence.
- Ask your local fire department to inspect your residence for fire safety and prevention.

RISMEDIA, July 28, 2006—



Ron Hidalgo, REALTOR®/Broker Since 1984.

Message from Ron:

Ron's philosophy is very simple, educating his customers and clients to the ***Purchasing and Selling of Real Estate*** -- including the best possible mortgages available. Ron searches for homes that meet his client's needs and desires and to **[not waste their precious time](#)**.

About mortgages: Visit **www.RonSellsAlabama.Com** and open Ron's Resource page section. You'll find a link to his **[weekly mortgage update](#)**. Each week Monday or Tuesday Ron updates this file . . . You may find this information useful to stay abreast of the financial market. While visiting, open Ron's **other pages** **for** much information about local businesses, activities and about the area schools, local news and weather.

You should visit ***"more about Listings"*** and look around the Montgomery Association of **REALTORS®** "***Active Properties***." You may find a home/property of interest. If you find one or more properties of interest and need additional information . . . **e-mail Ron @ RonHidalgo@MindSpring.Com** and let him know exactly what you need or question(s) you may have . . . Your **e-message** will be replied to as soon as possible.

Ron has been in the real estate business since 1984 and **previously built custom** and **speculative homes**. He also worked and built motels and apartments and remodeled many homes. As you may see, Ron is well versed and knowledgeable in this business and much to offer.

When you are ready to purchase or sell ----- **Let Ron know** exactly what type of service and information you need and we will return such as soon as possible.

Again, **simply e-mail Ron @ RonHidalgo@MindSpring.Com** and let Ron know what "Benefits and Features" you will need and desire for your next home. Know friends, relatives or co-workers that expressed needing to sell or purchase real estate? Ron would appreciate you sharing his name and contact information with them . . .

What we need are the approximate living square footage, where employment area located, the distance desired from employment, general description of features and amenities, and of course the price range.

Here is what Ron offers:

- * Undivided Loyalty,
- * Obedience,
- * Reasonable Care and Diligence,
- * Confidentiality,
- * Full Disclosure and Accounting,
- * Copies of signed paper work,

Platinum SERVICE and RESULTS that'll make you say **WOW!**
"Your *Realtor*® for Life!"

Ron is dedicated to his clients with "Platinum Service and Results that makes them say WOW!"

"Buying or selling real estate should be stress free and fun! ...and it will be when you select Ron as your *Realtor*®. Ron specializes in the Montgomery Alabama Tri-County Area and the areas surrounding. Ron knows what it takes to buy and sell homes and he has constructed/built several homes through his construction business in Louisiana (1972-1990.)

For an experienced, Full-Time Professional with a solid background in sales and marketing, *since 1984*, give Ron a call today or email Ron --- asking for his services.

Ron P. Hidalgo

REALTOR®/Broker *Since 1984*

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"Professional and Quality Service is not Expensive, It's Priceless!"
Ron's clients deserve nothing less.

Thanks for taking time and visiting www.RonSellsAlabama.Com, let us know how we may be of service to you.