

Buy someone a safe gift

No matter what brand you buy, a gift of safety could save the life and or property of its recipient. There are at least three good, relatively inexpensive gifts in this category:

A smoke detector. More than 60 percent of all homes in the United States now have at least one smoke detector, but often just one isn't enough. If your home isn't small or if it has more than one level, you may need two, three or more detectors to catch the beginnings of fire in various parts of the home. So a smoke detector gift won't duplicate what your friend or relative already has; it will supplement it.

There are two basic types of smoke detector: ionization and photoelectric. Either type may be battery-operated or plugged into a power source. Some experts suggest it's best to have one of each for maximum protection.

There are many documented cases of smoke detectors saving lives, especially when fire breaks out while people are sleeping. At least one study shows their early-warning feature also reduces property damage by making it possible for firefighters to get to the fire sooner.

A fire extinguisher. Fairly easy to operate, a fire extinguisher can put out small fires before they grow into big ones. Probably the best kind of fire extinguisher for the home is a multi-purpose, dry chemical Class ABC extinguisher, which can put out all types of fires. Numerical ratings on fire extinguishers indicate how large a fire they can put out. Make sure any fire extinguisher (or smoke detector) you buy is listed by Underwriters Laboratories or other recognized testing agency.

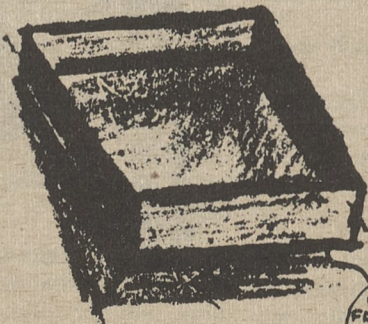
As with smoke detectors, your friend or relative may already have a fire extinguisher-but more than one is often needed because you can't count on a fire to break out near the extinguisher's location.

Deadbolt locks. They are the minimum protection a homeowner or apartment dweller should have against burglars and other intruders. It may not be practical to actually give someone a set of deadbolt locks, but you could price them and give a gift certificate from a hardware store, lock shop or other retail outlet that sells locks.

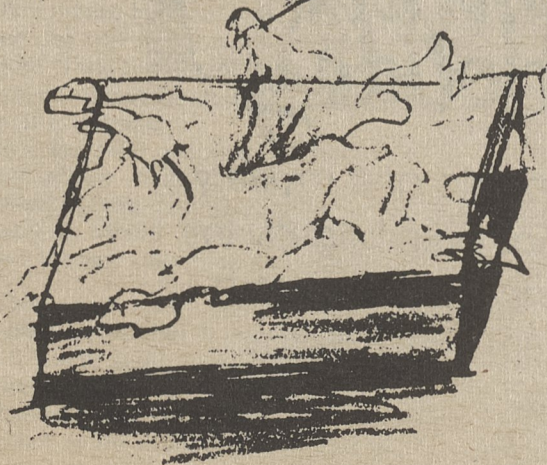
Another gift of safety you may want to consider is a burglar alarm. A sophisticated burglar alarm system can easily cost more than \$1,000, but there are simple, fairly inexpensive alarms that offer some protection and are either battery-operated or can be plugged into a wall outlet.

Most insurance companies give homeowners' premium discounts to people who have smoke detectors or other fire and burglar alarms; some also allow discounts for fire extinguishers, deadbolt locks and various combinations of security devices.

For free booklets on fire safety and home security, write to Public Relations Department, State Farm Insurance Companies, One State Farm Plaza, Bloomington, IL 61701. Ask for "The Legend of Fire," "The Adventures of Surelocked Homes" and "Safe Home Guide."



FROM SANTA



By
Sandy Rutkoski
Grade 8
Gate of Heaven

Christmas morning