

Fire Prevention Tips

Family Fire Safety: A house fire can happen quicker and easier than one would expect and statistics show that most families are not prepared. Every home should have properly installed, working smoke/CO2 alarms and fire extinguishers, but every home needs an escape plan that every member of the household is familiar with. Developing a fire safety plan for your family is easy and is essential for your family's safety.

- Make a plan on paper showing at least two ways out of every room
- Designate a meeting place in a safe place outside your home that is a safe distance away.
- Practice a home fire drill in the day and the night with everyone in the home twice a year.
- Teach children to be able to escape on their own.
- Teach your family that once they leave the house, to stay out! Never go back for anything.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries once a year. Pick a date that is significant to help you remember.
- Make sure that you have up to date fire extinguishers in your home and learn how to use them.
- Teach your family to: Stop, Drop & Roll
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your house. Place them near every bedroom and if you sleep with the door closed, place one inside the room.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave. This may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.

Preventing Fires Caused by Cooking:

- Always stay in the kitchen while cooking.
- Keep things that can burn, such as dishtowels, paper or plastic bags, and curtains at least three feet away from the range top.

- Before cooking, roll up sleeves and use oven mitts. Loose-fitting clothes can touch a hot burner and catch on fire.
- Don't plug in too many appliances at once.

Preventing Fires Caused by Heating:

- Store matches and lighters in a locked cabinet.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from things that can burn, such as curtains or stacks of newspaper.
- When not in use, space heaters should be unplugged.
- Have a service person inspect chimneys, fireplaces, wood and coal stoves and central furnaces once a year. Have them cleaned when necessary.
- Keep things that can burn away from your fireplace and keep a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace.

Preventing Fires Caused by Smoking:

- Use "fire-safe" cigarettes and smoke outside.
- Use large, deep ashtrays on sturdy surfaces like a table
- Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before dumping them in the trash.

Preventing Fires Caused by Candles :

- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Do not allow children to keep candles or incense in their rooms.
- Always use stable candle holders made of material that won't catch fire, such as metal, glass, etc.
- Blow out candles when adults leave the room.

Prevent Fires Caused by Gasoline and Other Products:

- Store gasoline in a garage or shed in a container approved for gasoline storage.
- Never bring or use gasoline indoors; and use it as motor fuel only.
- Close the lid on all dangerous products and put them away after using them.
- Store them away from the home and in a safe place with a lock.