



Fire Safety Tips

Have a Plan

Create an escape plan now and practice it with the whole family at least twice a year. College students and elderly persons should make sure they know the fire plan in their dorm or residential facility. Remember to pick a meeting place outside of the house a safe distance away to gather the family together once they've gotten out.

Get Early Warning

Having a working smoke alarm reduces the risk of dying in a fire by nearly 50 percent, so check smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries every year... even if you think they are "still good." Experts recommend, and many building codes require, placement of one smoke alarm in every bedroom with one additional unit in a common area (stairway, main hallway, etc.) on every floor.

Learn Best Practices

Make sure that every family member knows: to stay as calm as possible; to stop, drop and roll! Should their clothing catch fire; to feel doors with the back of their hand and not to open a door if it is hot; and to drop to the floor to get available fresh air and crawl to the nearest safe exit.

Block The Smoke

Smoke - not fire - is the cause of 70 percent of all residential fire fatalities. Always sleep with doors closed and install a revolutionary new safety device called **The SMOKESTOPPER** under every bedroom door. Featuring a series of smoke inhibiting chambers and a highly reflective strip, **The SMOKESTOPPER** inhibits smoke from passing under doors and aids rescue personnel in prioritizing their search and identifying loved ones' rooms during rescue operations.

Heat During The Cold

Keep space heaters at least three feet away from things that can burn, such as curtains or stacks of newspaper.

Always turn off heaters when leaving the room or going to bed. When it comes to open-flame heating devices in the house, 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.

In The Kitchen

When in the kitchen, keep things that can burn, such as dishtowels, paper or plastic bags, and curtains at least three feet away from the range top.

Always stay in the kitchen while cooking and before you begin cooking, roll up sleeves and use oven mitts. Loose-fitting clothes can touch a hot burner and catch on fire.

By The Grill

Always stay by the grill when cooking, Your grill may stay hot for a long time. Keep children and pets away.

Keep grills at least ten feet away from other objects, especially the house and any shrubs or bushes.

Know Another Way Out

Everyone should know at least two ways out of their bedroom. A window can be used if the door is blocked by heat, smoke or flames. Consider a rope or chain escape ladder for sleeping areas on the second or third floors. If trapped in a room, keep the door closed, stay low to the floor and wait by the window. Do not hide under beds or in closets.

Circumnavigating Security Bars

Security bars on windows can help keep thieves out, but can also trap you inside your house in a fire. Install simple to use emergency releases on the inside of all bedroom windows.

Once You Are Out, Stay Out!

Getting yourself and family members out should be your No. 1 priority. Use a neighbor's phone to call 911 or the fire department. Stay out under all circumstances until a fire official tells you it is safe to go back inside.

Matches & Lighters

Many young children are badly burned or die playing with matches and lighters. Store matches & lighters in a locked cabinet if at all possible. Or at least out of the reach of young children.

Smoking

Use "fire-safe" cigarettes and smoke outside. Use larger, deep ashtrays on sturdy surfaces like a table to prevent the ashtray from accidentally falling on a rug or flammable surface.

Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before dumping them in the trash.

Products In The Home

Read the label of everything you buy. If you see the words "Caution," "Warning," "Danger," or "Flammable," be very careful.