



Fire Safety Tips

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL

- In case of fire go to your neighbor's home to call.
- Teach your children how to get emergency help.

FIREWORKS ARE DANGEROUS!

- Even sparklers, which burn as hot as 1200 degrees F (649 C), cause thousands of injuries to children each year.
- Attend professional displays and leave fireworks to the technicians who are trained to use them.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

- Create a safety zone around your home by clearing flammable vegetation.
- Keep your roof clear of leaves and needles.
- Discuss community fire safety with your neighbors.

USE ELECTRICITY SAFELY

- Don't overload extension cords or run them under rugs.
- Replace any cord that is cracked or frayed. If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it and have it repaired by a professional.
- Use the proper size fuses in your fuse box.



STORE ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF GASOLINE IN AN APPROVED SAFETY CONTAINER OUTSIDE THE HOME

- Use it as a motor fuel only, not for cleaning.



ENJOY A SAFE HOLIDAY

- Water your christmas tree daily and be sure it is placed away from exits and heat sources.
- Make sure holiday lights are labeled by an approved testing laboratory and in good condition.

CRAWL LOW UNDER SMOKE

- If you encounter smoke on your way out of a fire, use your second way out instead.
- If you must escape through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.

SECURITY BARS ON WINDOWS CAN TRAP YOU IN A FIRE

- Use bars which have a quick release mechanism that everyone in the family can operate.

FIRE WON'T WAIT, PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

- Have an escape plan that includes two ways out of each room and a meeting place outside the home.
- Practice it with the whole family at least twice a year.

STOP, DROP, AND ROLL

- If your clothes catch on fire, stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands and roll over and over to smother the flames.

COOL A BURN

- If someone gets burned, place the wound in cool water for 10 - 15 minutes.
- If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately. Set the temperature of your

SPACE HEATERS NEED SPACE

- Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet (1m) from anything that can burn.
- Never leave heaters on when you leave home or

hot water heater to 120 degrees F (49 C) or below.

go to bed and keep children and pets well away from them.

WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

- Install them on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.
- Test them monthly and install new batteries.

MATCHES OR LIGHTERS CAN BE DEADLY IN THE HANDS OF A CHILD

- Use child resistant lighters.
- Store all matches and lighters up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST:

Simple changes that could save your life

CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES

The IAFC and fire experts nationwide encourage people to change smoke alarm batteries at least annually. An easy way to remember to change your batteries is when you turn your clock back in the fall. Replace old batteries with fresh, high quality alkaline batteries, such as Energizer brand batteries, to keep your smoke alarm going year long.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

After inserting a fresh battery in your smoke alarm, check to make sure the smoke alarm itself is working by pushing the safety test button.

COUNT YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, including one in every bedroom and one outside each sleeping area.

VACUUM YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

Each month, clean your smoke alarm of dust and cobwebs to ensure their sensitivity.

CHANGE YOUR FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES

To make sure your emergency flashlights work when you need them, use high quality alkaline batteries. Note: Keep a working flashlight near your bed, in the kitchen, basement and family room, and use it to signal for help in the event of a fire.

INSTALL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Install a fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen and know how to use it. Should you need to purchase one, the IAFC recommends a multi or all purpose fire extinguisher that is listed by an accredited testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory.

PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE

Create at least two different escape routes and practice them with the entire family. Children are at double the risk of dying in a home fire because they often become scared and confused during fires. Make sure your children understand that a smoke alarm signals a home fire and that they recognize its alarm.

Winter Fire Prevention Advice

WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!

Winter Fire prevention advice from the National Fire Protection Association.

Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States (During December, January and February it is the leading cause).

Most heating equipment fires start as a result of misuse or improper maintenance. When purchasing new heating equipment, be sure to select products that have been tested and approved by an independent testing laboratory. Install and maintain heating equipment correctly, and be sure it complies with local fire building codes.

PORTABLE AND OTHER SPACE HEATERS

Portable and space heaters can be either electric or fueled by gas, liquid fuel (kerosene), or solid fuel (wood or coal). All types must be placed at least 36 inches (1 meter) away from anything that can burn, such as wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets and people. Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room. Or when you go to sleep. Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters, and be sure everyone understand that drying clothing or placing combustibles over heaters is a fire hazard. If you have an electric space heater check each season for fraying or splitting wires and overheating. Have all problems repaired by a professional before operating the space heater.

PORTABLE KEROSENE HEATERS

If you have a liquid fueled space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel, because the wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment's design limits and cause a fire. When refueling, always turn off the heater and let it cool down before adding fuel. Wipe up any spills promptly. If you are considering a kerosene heater, be sure to check with your local fire department before purchasing to find out if it is legal in your community. Store the kerosene away from heat or open flame in a container approved by the local fire department, and be sure it is clearly marked with the fuel name.

FIREPLACES

Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season and cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not properly cleaned. Always protect your home and your family by using a sturdy screen when burning fires. Remember to burn only wood- never burn paper or pine boughs, which can float out the chimney and ignite your roof or a neighboring home. Never use flammable liquids in a fireplace. If you are purchasing a factory-built fireplace, select one listed by a testing laboratory, and have it installed according to local codes.

WOOD STOVES

Be sure your wood or coal stove bears the label of a recognized testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper installation, use and maintenance. Chimney connections and chimney flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned periodically. Follow the same safety rules for wood stoves as you would for space heaters. Burn only wood, and be sure the wood stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot embers. Check with your local fire department and local code of officials before having your wood stove installed.

CAUTION - Portable LP gas (Propane) Heaters with self contained fuel supplies (cabinet heaters) are prohibited for home use by NFPA fire safety standards.

Fire Prevention Cooking Advice

WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT - PREVENT HOME FIRES!

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Never leave cooking unattended. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner.

Good Cooking Advice

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires in the United States. The leading cause of home cooking fires and injuries is unattended cooking.

Cooking Safely Prevents Fires

- always keep an eye on food being heated. If you leave the kitchen - turn off the heat! Good cooking tip: If the phone rings or something else requires you to leave the kitchen momentarily when cooking, take a pot holder or wooden spoon with you as a reminder to get back to the kitchen quickly.
- Keep young children away from appliances when cooking. If you allow older children to cook, supervise them closely and teach them safe cooking practices.

Good cooking tip: Enforce a three foot kid-free-zone around the range and teach youngsters not to play in that area.

- Dress appropriately for cooking. Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking and use caution when working near heat sources.

Good Cooking Tip: Try not to reach or lean over the stove. You can avoid this by not storing items you use directly over or behind the stovetop.

- Provide plenty of quality, fire resistant pot holders and oven mitts for the cooks in your household.

Good Cooking Tip: Select heavy, fire retardant oven mitts that nearly reach the elbow to protect your entire forearm from heat.

- Turn handles inward so pots and pans won't be pulled or knocked off the stove.
- Keep the stove-top clean and clear. Store things that can catch fire, like pot holders or wooden utensils, away from heat sources.

Good Cooking Tip: Keep food or grease from building up by cleaning often.

- Monitor hot oil carefully and heat it slowly, keeping the pan lid close at hand. Guard against splattering grease. Know what to do in case a grease fire occurs.
- Use caution with electrical appliances. Plug one appliance into an outlet at a time. Have appliances with frayed or cracked cords repaired before using. Never stand in or near water when using electrical appliances.

Good Cooking Tip: Un-plug countertop appliances when not in use.

- Always have pot holders and lids at the ready when cooking. You may need them if you experience a small pan fire.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A FIRE:

- If a pan fire starts on the stove-top, carefully slide a lid or large pan over the fire and then turn off the burner. Never pour water on a grease fire because splashed grease can ignite combustibles in your kitchen, spreading the fire.
- Don't try to carry a pan that's on fire outside or to the sink. This is extremely dangerous because it can easily ignite your clothing or other combustibles you may pass with the pan.
- If a pan fire starts inside the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to suffocate the flames. If a fire starts inside your microwave, keep the door shut, push the "stop" switch, and unplug the unit. Keep the door closed until the fire is out. Call the fire department if the fire does not go out immediately.
- If your clothing catch fire, do not run, Stop, drop to the ground and roll over and over until the flames are smothered.
- If you keep fire extinguishers on hand and plan to use them in the event of a fire, be sure you know what type to buy and how to use them properly. Ask your fire department for information on what to buy and training in their use.
- Cool a burn: If you experience a burn while cooking that does not break the skin, run cool water over the skin for 10 - 15 minutes. Do not place butter or other ointment on the burn as this keeps the heat in and could further damage the skin. Severe burns, including burns that break the skin, should be treated by a physician.