

EACH YEAR OVER 350,000 RESIDENTIAL FIRES ARE REPORTED.

Fire is responsible for over 2500 deaths; over 10,000 injuries; over 5 billion dollars worth of property damage and most of these tragedies are completely preventable. Follow these fire safety and prevention tips to help your family in the event of a fire.

LOOK! 
For places fire can start.

Fires can start anywhere. Inspect areas of your home are that most prone to fire: the kitchen, electric appliances, wiring, and the heating system. Look for flammable items near heat sources, frayed and worn electrical cords and poor ventilation near heat sources.

Check these common home “HOTSPOTS” to identify possible fire hazards and remove them from your home.

Are matches and lighters out of the reach of small children? YES☐ NO☐

Do you always remain near the stove while cooking? YES☐ NO☐

Do you turn the stove/oven off before leaving the house? YES☐ NO☐

Are electrical cords being used safely?(not under rugs, frayed or broken) YES☐ NO☐

Did only qualified electricians install or extend wiring in your home? YES☐ NO☐

Is the clothes dryer lint filter and venting system clean? YES☐ NO☐

Do you turn the clothes dryer off before leaving your home? YES☐ NO☐

Do you blow out candles when leaving a room? YES☐ NO☐

Does your fireplace have a safety screen? YES☐ NO☐

Do you keep space heaters away from any flammable materials? YES☐ NO☐
(bedding, curtains etc.)

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- __ Inspect your home for common hot spots.
- __ Install and maintain smoke alarms throughout your home.
- __ Sleep with your bedroom doors closed.
- __ Know two ways out of every room.
- __ Have a safe escape plan and practice it.
- __ Have a safe meeting spot outside of your home.
- __ Crawl low under smoke.
- __ Never go back inside a burning building.

**BE FIRE READY
EVERY DAY**

LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.



LISTEN!

Working smoke alarms save lives. Fire is fast. Within just a few minutes, a room can be completely engulfed in flames. Just a few minutes more, and the entire house is on fire. A smoke alarm can warn your family and give you time to escape a fire.

Proper smoke alarm maintenance is critical to help keep your family safe in a fire. Sadly, 1 out of every 5 homes doesn't have a single working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms do not last forever and need proper care and maintenance to work properly. Follow the below tips to make sure your smoke alarms are installed and maintained properly.

INSTALLATION

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on where and how to properly install smoke alarms.
- Usually smoke alarms should be installed either on the ceiling 4" to 12" away from walls, high on a wall 4" to 12" away from the ceiling, and at least 3 feet away from windows, doors or air ducts.

- Install smoke alarms where they are easily accessible for testing and maintenance.
- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home (including the basement and attic).
- Place smoke alarms outside each sleeping area.
- Place smoke alarms inside each bedroom.

Avoid placing smoke alarms in the kitchen, bathroom or garage as cooking fumes, steam and other particles can lead to false alarms or damage the alarm.

MAINTENANCE

Smoke alarms that are over ten years old, have dead batteries, or broken sensors will not help protect your family during a fire.

- Test smoke alarms once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- Replace batteries twice a year (change your batteries when you change your clocks for daylight savings time).
- Never borrow batteries from the smoke alarm.
- Keep smoke alarms free of dust and other debris. Every six months gently vacuum your alarms.
- Replace alarms after 10 years. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years regardless of their condition. Check the printed manufactured date on the unit.

Smoke alarms are your first line of defense against fire. Making sure they are properly installed, placed, maintained and working gives you and your family the best chance of waking up and getting out safely.

DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW WHAT THE SMOKE ALARM SOUNDS LIKE?

Many home fires happen at night, when people are asleep. Inhaling smoke actually puts people in a deeper sleep. Having a warning system in place with properly working smoke alarms can alert you to danger before the fire gets out of control.

However, if your family doesn't know what the smoke alarm sounds like, or what to do when the alarm is sounded it can cause confusion. Test your smoke alarms while your family is home, make sure they know what it sounds like and if they hear it to get out of the house quickly, and stay out.

LEARN!

Fire can spread quickly, leaving as little as two minutes to get out safely once a smoke alarm sounds. Having and practicing a Safe Escape Plan can make all the difference. Your Safe Escape Plan should include TWO ways out of every room, a safe meeting place outside of the home and you should practice your plan twice a year.

HOW TO MAKE A SAFE ESCAPE PLAN

1. Draw a Floor Plan of Your Home - Your plan should have one page for each floor and include all bedrooms and exits (this includes windows and doors). As a family look at the exit routes from each room and mark them on the floor plan. Sketch the shortest possible exit from each room. You should have two ways out of every room.



2. Choose a Safe Meeting Place - Choose a safe place, outside, a short but safe distance from your house. Everyone in the family should meet here immediately if a smoke alarm goes off. Good choices include a neighbor's mailbox, a tree, or a street sign - anything that does not move and is easy to recognize.

3. Practice Your Plan - Walk through your plan and make any adjustments you may need. Make sure no exits are blocked and windows are easy to open. Practice during the night and day and in different conditions to help your family be prepared for any emergency. Block exits using signs that say "smoke" or "fire" so people will have to change their exits. Practice your plan twice a year and practice until everyone escapes smoothly and within 3-5 minutes.

LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.
Keep Fire Dangers Away.

