



Fire Safety Tips

Preventing Fires at Home

- Don't smoke in bed.
- Don't let children play with matches or lighters.
- Don't use extension cords or overload circuits. Use power strips with surge protectors instead.
- Don't replace faulty home electrical wiring unless you are qualified. Hire professionals.
- Don't store flammable liquids in your home. If you must store them, store them outside in an approved container.
- Don't clutter your home with combustible materials, especially around your hot water heater and furnace.

Smoke Detectors

- Buy and install smoke detectors. They can alert you to a fire in time for you to escape.
- Place smoke detectors in central locations on every level of your home, in every bedroom, and in the hall outside your bedrooms.
- Don't place a smoke detector too close to the kitchen. Cooking can trigger a false alarm.
- Change batteries in your detectors when you change your clocks in spring and fall.
- Keep your detectors free of dust and cobwebs.
- Do not paint your smoke detector (it renders it useless).
- Vacuum your smoke alarms once a month, keeping clear of dust and cobwebs, to ensure its sensitivity.

Fire Extinguishers

- Provide fire extinguishers on every level of your home and in the garage. Buy an ABC type extinguisher and know how to use it. It is important to remember that fire extinguishers are for small fires. They are not an alternative to calling the Fire Department.

Cooking

- Always have the lid out to cover the pan if a fire should start.
- Keep your exhaust system for your stove free from grease build-up.

Chimneys

- Always use a fire screen.
- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected once a year for cracks, crumbling bricks, and any obstructions.

Plan and Practice your Escape

Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out then call for help.