

# Fire Safety Tips

## Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- Test smoke alarms every month. It is recommended that you change the batteries every six months.
- Talk with all family members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.
- If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL FOR HELP. Never go back inside.



## Smoking Disposal Safety Tips

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.
- Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out, and dousing in water or sand is the best way to do that.



## Electrical Tips

- Did you know? Electrical malfunction is the leading cause of home fires year after year.
- Electrical work should only be done by a qualified electrician.
- Check your electrical cords. If they are cracked or damaged, replace them. Don't try to repair them.
- Don't overload extension cords or wall outlets.
- Never use extension cords with appliances (including small countertop appliances). Plug them directly into wall outlets.



## Candle Burning

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep candles away from anything that could catch fire.
- Make sure all candles are out of reach of children and pets.



## Fireplaces, Wood Coal and Pellet Stoves, and Other Heating Devices



- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks jumping out.
- Have equipment cleaned and inspected each year.
- Have your wood, coal or pellet stoves professionally installed.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from your furnace, fireplace, wood stove, coal stove, pellet stove or portable space heater.

## Gas or Oil Furnaces

- Should be inspected by a licensed contractor annually, and replaced when recommended.
- We also recommend annual cleaning of your oil or gas furnace.



## Dryer Safety

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.



## Kitchen Safety Tips

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.



**Sources:** <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire#/About>, <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/top-causes-of-fire/smoking> Electrical fire prevention, [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/electrical\\_fire\\_safety\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/electrical_fire_safety_flyer.pdf), <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/cooking.html>, [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/heating\\_fire\\_safety\\_horizontal.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/heating_fire_safety_horizontal.pdf), <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/cooking.html>, <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/dryers-and-washing-machines/dryer-safety-tips>

**About Us** For decades, MAPFRE Insurance has been protecting families and their possessions with quality insurance coverage and a strong commitment to service excellence. Today we are represented by a powerful network of agents located throughout the United States.

That's MAPFRE... People who take care of people.®

[www.mapfreinsurance.com](http://www.mapfreinsurance.com)



MAPFRE Insurance® is a brand and service mark of MAPFRE U.S.A. Corp. and its affiliates, MAPFRE Life Insurance Company<sup>SM</sup> [Cal. COA 2293-9, Dover, DE]; American Commerce Insurance Company<sup>SM</sup> [Cal. COA 4928-8, Columbus, OH]; Citation Insurance Company<sup>SM</sup> (Webster, MA); The Commerce Insurance Company<sup>SM</sup> (Webster, MA); Commerce West Insurance Company<sup>SM</sup> [Cal. COA 1372-2, San Ramon, CA], MAPFRE Insurance Company<sup>SM</sup> [Cal. COA 3039-5, Florham Park, NJ], MAPFRE Insurance Company of Florida<sup>SM</sup> [Miami, FL] and MAPFRE Insurance Company of New York<sup>SM</sup> [Garden City, NY]. Not all products available in all states. Coverage is subject to policy terms, conditions and underwriting eligibility. Credits and discounts may not be available on all coverages or policies. Limits, exclusions and deductibles may apply.