

# 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/smokingElectrical 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>

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