

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FIRE DANFGERS

Fires kill approximately 5,500 Americans and injure over 300,000 each year. The major causes of home fires are:

1. Smoking 26%
2. Incendiary or Suspicious 16%
3. Heating 14%
4. Child Playing 10%
5. Electrical Distribution 10%
6. Cooking 8%
7. All other causes 16%

The leading cause of death in a fire is asphyxiation. Fire consumes the oxygen in the air and increases the amount of deadly carbon monoxide, which causes a loss of consciousness or death within minutes. Fire victims rarely see the flames. At floor level, temperatures average about 90 degrees F, but at eye level rise to 600 degrees F.

Fire Protection

How do you protect against fire?

1. Because fires quickly generate into a black, choking smoke, which is impossible to see through, fire drills and preparation are essential to survival.
2. Make sure all family members have a planned escape route that they can travel with their EYES CLOSED! Practice staying low to the ground when escaping, for better visibility and to avoid the heat.
3. If traveling, or even for home use, consider the purchase of a smoke protection hood.
4. Feel all doors before opening them and if the door is hot try to get out another way. Open a window to escape or for fresh air while awaiting rescue. Even more preferable, if possible, open slightly the top AND bottom portions because smoke tends to draw out of the top, while fresh air comes through the bottom.
5. If you can't get out, fill a bathtub with water as quickly as possible, because you can lose water pressure quickly. Put damp clothes along the bottom of the door.
6. Teach everyone to STOP, DROP and ROLL if clothes catch fire.
7. Purchase collapsible ladders and practice using them to get out of an upper story window.

Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers

Nearly half the residential fires and three fifths of the residential fatalities occur in homes with NO WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS!!

1. Replace batteries at least once a year and test the detector even more often. Suggestion: Replace detector batteries every July 4th!
2. Purchase smoke detectors labeled by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).
3. It is recommended that you have a smoke detector in each sleeping room and on each floor. Split level spaces should have a detector on the higher floor.
4. Both ionization and photoelectric detectors work, but differently. Ionization models respond slightly faster to open flaming fires while photoelectric models respond faster to smoldering fires. Ideally, a home should be protected by at least one of each.
5. Keep at least one ABC rated Fire extinguisher in your home and in your garage.

Fire Prevention

THE BEST HOME FIRE IS THE ONE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

1. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
2. Don't smoke in bed.
3. Replace any worn or cracked electrical cords.
4. Don't overload one outlet with lots of extension cords and multiple plug outlets.
5. Never run an electric cord or extension cord under a rug.
6. Use barbecues in safe areas (away from combustibles) and keep them under control.
7. Have your chimney or wood stove flue cleaned by a professional if you use it regularly in the winter.
8. Be careful with cooking oil and never leave your stove on an unattended.

Building permits for replacement water heaters, replacement furnaces, roof replacements, additions and home improvements help ensure that your home will be safe.