

# HIGHER-RISK RESIDENTS

If you live in a mobile home or recreational vehicle, you are at greater risk of injury from fire than if you live in an apartment or a freestanding home. The rectangular design and construction of a mobile home and the compactness of a recreational vehicle can promote the rapid spread of fire, heat, and poisonous gases. There are measures you may take to avoid injury from fire.



## TIPS FOR KEEPING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Install smoke alarms and test them regularly. Make sure to test the batteries every month and replace them at least once a year. If your smoke alarms are more than ten years old, consider replacing them with newer models.

Have an evacuation plan in place. In the event of a fire, every second counts. Make sure you and your family know how to get out of your mobile home or RV as quickly as possible. Designate a meeting place outside the dwelling where everyone can gather once they have safely evacuated. Practice your evacuation plan regularly to ensure that everyone knows what to do.



## RESOURCES

**U.S. Fire Administration:**

[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

**Red Cross:**

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**National Safety Council:**

[www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)

# FIRE SAFETY



FOR OCCUPANTS OF  
MOBILE HOMES &  
RECREATIONAL  
VEHICLES





# SAFE COOKING

**Cooking is the leading cause of mobile home and RV fires**, so it's important to be vigilant when preparing meals. Never leave cooking food unattended and keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach in case of an accidental fire.

**Clear the clutter.** Keep flammable materials away from heat sources, like the stove. This includes linen items and flammable liquids such as gasoline, cleaning solvents, and paint thinners. Keep these materials in a cool, dry place. Flammable liquids are best stored in approved containers with tight-fitting lids.

**Keep your mobile home or RV clutter-free. Clutter may block a fire exit or help fire to spread quickly.**



## MAINTENANCE IS KEY

Keep electrical cords in good condition. Frayed or damaged electrical cords can pose a serious fire hazard. Make sure to regularly inspect the cords in your mobile home or RV and replace any that are damaged. Don't overload outlets or extension cords, and never use cords that are meant for outdoor use indoors.

Practice good maintenance habits. Regular maintenance can help prevent fires by ensuring that your appliances and heating and cooling systems are in good working order. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning and maintaining these systems and have them inspected regularly by a professional.

## THE VALUE OF AN EXTINGUISHER

Keep a fire extinguisher on hand. Fire extinguishers can be a crucial tool in helping to put out a small fire before it spreads. Make sure to keep a fire extinguisher in an easily accessible location in your mobile home or RV, and be sure to familiarize yourself with how to use it in case of an emergency.

Make sure to properly extinguish cigarettes and cigars. Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in mobile homes and RVs, so it is important to be extra vigilant when it comes to properly disposing of smoking materials. A dropped cigarette or cigar can smolder for hours and start a fire.



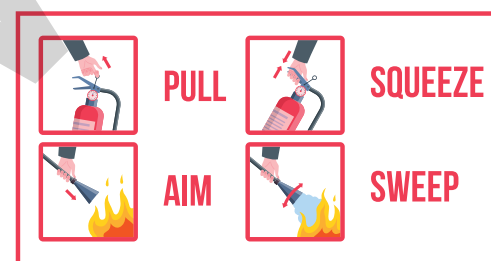
## THE PASS TECHNIQUE

**Pull** the pin at the top of the cylinder.

**Aim** the nozzle at the base of the fire.

**Squeeze** or press the handle.

**Sweep** the stream of liquid or powder from side to side at the base of the fire until the fire is out. Shut off the extinguisher and watch for rekindling of the fire — even when the fire appears to be out, the fire can easily ignite again.



## VENTILATION MATTERS

Protect against CO poisoning, by making sure to install CO detectors in your dwelling and test them regularly. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that can be produced by burning fossil fuels (e.g., wood, gasoline, oil, propane). It is especially dangerous because it can build up to harmful levels in a confined space, such as a mobile home or RV, without being detected.

Keep your mobile home or RV well-ventilated. Proper ventilation can help reduce the risk of fire. Make sure to open windows and use exhaust fans when cooking or using appliances that produce heat or vapors.



## PRACTICE CAUTION

Be cautious when using space heaters. Space heaters can be a convenient way to stay warm in a mobile home or RV, but they can also be a fire hazard if not used properly. Make sure to keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials and turn them off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Keep a flashlight and a whistle in an easily accessible location. These items can be useful in the event of a power outage or if you need to signal for help during an evacuation.

By following these safety tips and being aware of the potential risks, you can help keep yourself and your loved ones safe from fire. Remember, the key to fire safety is prevention, so be proactive in protecting your mobile home or RV.

**TAKE THE STEPS TO PREVENT FIRES FROM OCCURRING.**