

# 10 WAYS TO PREVENT HOME FIRES



## 1 **KNOW WHAT CAUSES HOME FIRES**

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires.
- Heating is the second most common cause, followed by electrical and arson.

## 2 **COOK SAFELY**

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Keep cooking surfaces clean.
- Hang pot holders and dish towels at least three feet from the stove.

## 3 **PRACTICE KITCHEN SAFETY**

- Supervise children in the kitchen.
- Avoid cooking in loose-fitting clothes.
- Cook with the lowest effective heat.

## 4 **MINIMIZE ELECTRICAL FIRE RISKS**

- Avoid placing extension cords under rugs or across walkways.
- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Check cords and plugs for wear.

## 5 **REDUCE HEATING FIRE HAZARDS**

- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected each year.
- Use a fire screen on fireplaces.
- Make sure all space heaters are clean and in good working condition.

## 6 **USE HEAT SOURCES SAFELY**

- Use space heaters that turn off if tipped over.
- Keep combustible materials at least three feet from all heat sources.

## 7 **AVOIDING SMOKE FIRES**

- Avoid smoking entirely.
- Smoke outside. Never smoke in bed.
- Make sure that smoking materials are completely extinguished.

## 8 **BE AWARE OF OPEN FLAMES**

- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Be mindful when using candles. Never leave an open flame unattended.

## 9 **PLAN AHEAD**

- Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and know how to use them.
- Have a fire escape plan and practice fire drills.
- Keep doors closed.

## 10 **SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES**

- Properly installed smoke alarms play a critical role in reducing fire deaths and injuries.

# HOME FIRE FACTS

Cooking causes nearly 50% of all home fires. Home fires lead to more than 2,600 deaths and more than 11,000 injuries each year.

Having functional smoke alarms **reduces the risk of dying in a home fire by 55%.**

People between the ages of **25-34 account for the largest number of home fire injuries (over 15%).**

Those between the ages of **55-64 account for the largest number of home fire deaths (over 20%).**

Home fires result in nearly **\$9 billion in losses annually.**

