

HOME FIRE PREVENTION

AVOID DISASTER

Understanding what causes home fires is the first step to preventing the tragedy of death or injury. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, starting nearly 50% of all fires. Heating is the second highest cause, followed by electrical systems, and intentional fires. Smoking is the 5th highest cause of home fires, but it is the leading cause of fire deaths.

ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION

Extension cords: Avoid whenever possible and never run cords under rugs

Outlets: Never overload electrical outlets

Plugs: Check cords and plugs for wear

Appliances: Make sure appliances have the approval of a testing laboratory, such as UL

PREVENTING HEATING FIRES

Precautions that you can take include: • Use a fire screen for fireplaces and have chimneys cleaned and inspected each year • Ensure fires are completely out before leaving • Make sure space heaters are clean, in good working condition, have thermostat controls, and will turn off if tipped over • Keep combustible materials at least three feet from heat sources.





**WORKING
SMOKE ALARMS
REDUCE THE
RISK OF DYING
IN A HOME FIRE
BY 55%.**

HOW TO PREVENT COOKING FIRES

- Be alert. If you are sleepy or intoxicated, avoid using the oven or stove.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Hang curtains, potholders, and dish towels at least three feet from the stove.
- Supervise children in the kitchen at all times.
- Avoid cooking in loose fitting clothes or sleeves that dangle.
- Cook with the lowest effective heat.

PREVENTING SMOKING FIRES

The most effective way to prevent a fire is to avoid smoking. Beyond this, the most important rules are:

1) Never smoke in bed or when sleepy 2) Smoke outside-most smoking related fires start inside 3) If smoking inside, check for cigarette butts in chairs and sofas 4) Make sure that cigarettes or cigars are completely extinguished.

**KEEP MATCHES AND LIGHTERS
AWAY FROM CHILDREN – THEY
ARE TOOLS, NOT TOYS.**