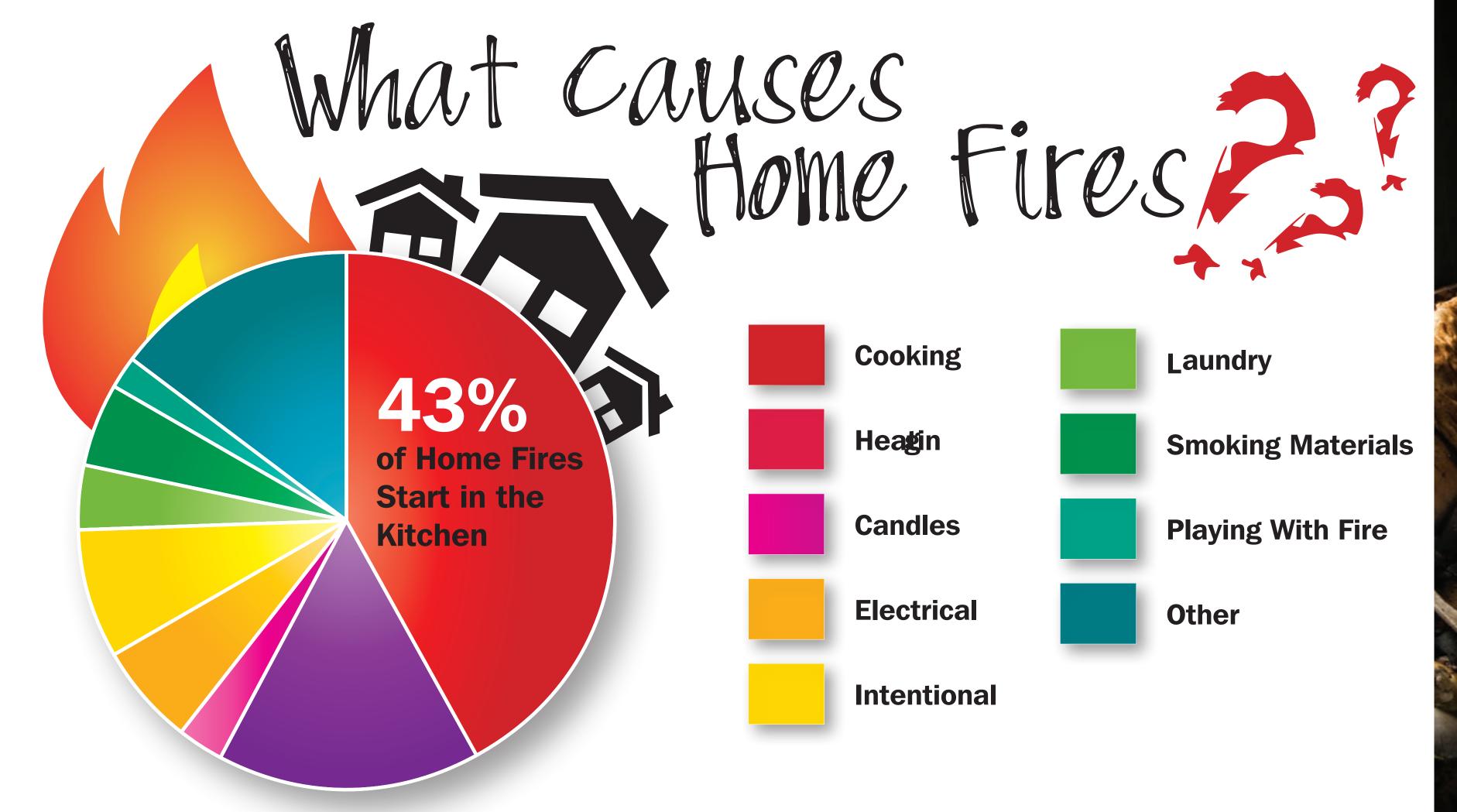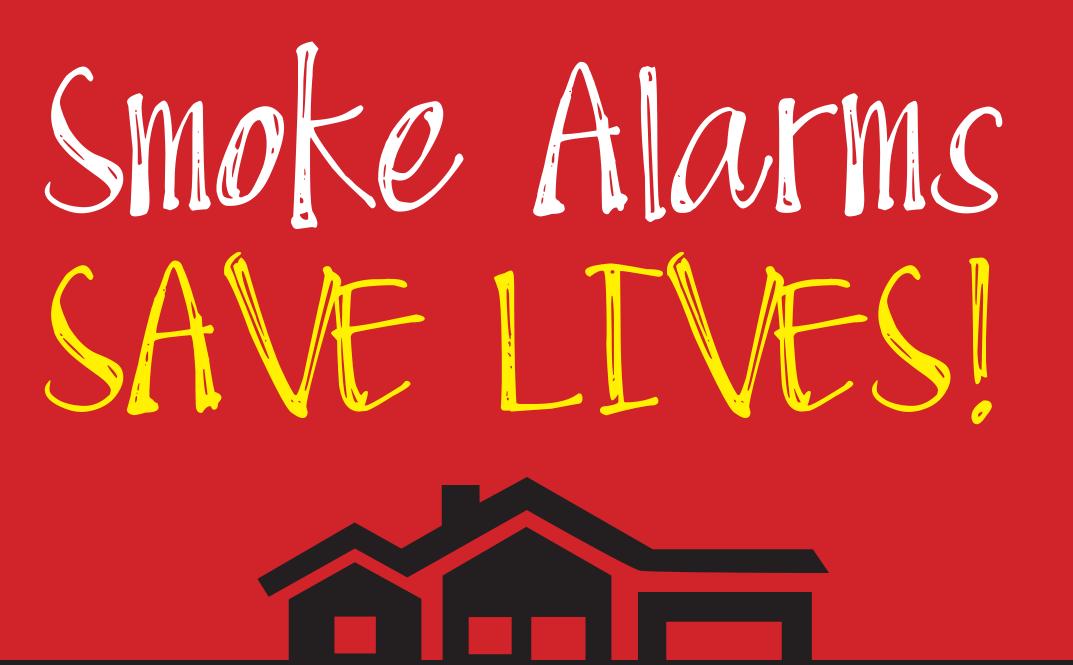# Home Fire Prevention

Each year there are more than *360,000* home fires; over *2500* deaths; over *13,000* injuries; over *7 billion* dollars worth of property destroyed. Most of these tragedies were preventable. Use the following fire prevention tips to keep safe!

What Causes Home Fires?

43% of Home Fires Start in the Kitchen

- Cooking
- Heating
- Candles
- Electrical
- Intentional
- Laundry
- Smoking Materials
- Playing With Fire
- Other

Smoke Alarms SAVE LIVES!

Three out of five fire deaths were in homes without working smoke alarms. Your best defense against fire is a smoke alarm. You should have at least one alarm on every level of your home.

Kitchen Fires

The kitchen is the leading cause of home fires and injuries.

- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Keep cooking surfaces clean.
- Hang curtains, potholders, and dishtowels at least three feet from the stove.
- Cook with the lowest effective heat.
- Supervise children in the kitchen at all times.
- Avoid cooking in loose fitting clothes or with sleeves that dangle.

Electrical Fires

- Avoid extension cords. Never run cords under rugs or across walkways.
- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Check cords and plugs for wear.
- Make sure appliances have the approval of a testing laboratory, such as UL.
- Lights flicker? Switches hot to the touch? Contact a licensed electrician right away.

Smoking
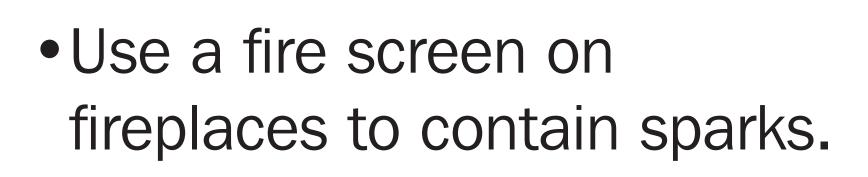
- Never smoke in bed or when sleepy.
- Smoke outside. Most smoking related fires start inside.
- If smoking inside, check for cigarette butts in chairs and sofas.
- Make sure that smoking materials are extinguished and ashtrays are cleaned when cool.

Heating

- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected each year.
- Use a fire screen on fireplaces to contain sparks.
- Ensure fires are completely out before leaving.
- Make sure all space heaters are clean and in good working condition.
- Use space heaters that have thermostat controls and will turn off if tipped over.
- Keep combustible materials at least 3 feet from all heat sources.
- Never hang holiday decorations from heat sources.

Fire Safety Tips

+ Keep matches and lighters away from children – they are tools, not toys.
+ Avoid candles. If you do use them, remember: When you go out – blow it out!
+ Keep flammable liquids away from heat sources.
+ Keep proper fire extinguishers on hand and know how to use them.
+ Have a fire escape plan and practice fire drills at least twice a year.

Avoid Disaster! PREVENT HOME FIRES!