

Fire Safety Tips

Home fires are often easily preventable tragedies. Educating yourself and your family is a key first step to preventing or surviving a household fire. Installing smoke detectors, practicing a home evacuation plan and learning proper use of a fire extinguisher are all easy and important steps every family should take.

Below are some key fire safety tips.

- Install a minimum of one smoke detector outside every bedroom and in every sleeping area. If it's a two story house install at least one per floor.
- Check your smoke detectors at least once a month and replace batteries one a year.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand and know how to use it.
- Create and practice a home evacuation plan.
- Keep all exits clear of clutter.
- Check that windows open and close easily.
- There should be at least two exits from every room.
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy.
- Keep floor lamps at least 4 feet away from combustibles.
- If you have a fireplace keep a screen in place at all times, have chimney checked and cleaned periodically.
- If a gas heater is present, do not store flammable materials in the garage.
- Only store flammable materials in the proper containers.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Talk to your children about fire safety.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector if your home has gas appliances.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Always stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Keep towels and other flammable materials away from the stove.