

PREVENTION AND SAFETY TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM FIRE

FOUR LEADING CAUSES OF HOME FIRES

- 1** **Cooking Equipment** causes 49% of all home fires.
- 2** **Portable Heaters** result in 52K home fires every year.
- 3** **Faulty Wiring** leads to \$1.3 billion in property damage annually.
- 4** **Open-Flame Candles** initiate 21 home fires each day.

A fire is one of the most devastating events a homeowner can experience. The flames, heat, smoke, and even the water used to put out a fire can cause serious damage to your house and belongings. It's important to understand the steps that you, as a property owner, can take to try to prevent this from happening to you.

HAVING AN EMERGENCY ESCAPE PLAN CAN SAVE YOUR HOME AND LIVES

Involve everyone who lives in your house, including children, seniors, and pets.

Identify two ways of getting out of every room in your home.

Designate a safe meeting place outside the home.

Know the most important number to call when you're safely outside—911.

Have a list of other important numbers that you'll need, including your insurance professionals'.

Practice your plan twice a year or more.

WOULD YOUR HOME PASS THE FIREPROOFING SAFETY TEST?

WITH THE FOLLOWING HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST IN HAND, TAKE A WALK AROUND YOUR HOME. IF YOU CAN'T CHECK OFF A BOX, THEN ADDRESS THAT ITEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



SMOKE ALARMS

Are they on every level of your home, including the basement and inside and outside sleeping areas? Do you test them monthly and replace them every 10 years?



CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Have you put a monitor on each level of your home? Do you replace them after seven years?



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Do you have fire extinguishers on every level of your home, including the kitchen, basement, and attic, as well as in the garage? Do all extinguishers have an ABC rating?



KITCHEN

Are flammable objects, like dish towels and wooden utensils, at a distance from all cooking equipment? Do you ever leave the room when something is cooking?



HEATING EQUIPMENT

If you use electric heaters, have you read all safety guidelines? Are they placed away from other items, like clothing, bags, furniture, or a wall?



ELECTRICAL CORDS

Are cords in good condition and clear of furniture and rugs? If using extension cords as temporary wiring, do you unplug after use and never connect two together?



OUTLETS

Have you checked that electrical outlets do not have missing or broken wall plates, and are not emitting strange sounds or burning smells?



CLOTHES DRYER

Is the lint trap cleaned out after every use? Does the venting system behind your dryer appear in good condition? Does the outdoor vent cover open when the dryer is on?



MATCHES AND LIGHTERS

Are these and other similar items locked away and out of the reach of children and pets?



CANDLES

When you use a candle, do you secure it in a tip-proof holder, blow it out before leaving a room, and keep flammable items like blankets and curtains at least a foot away?



FIREPLACE

Do you only burn wood or manufactured logs? Are you always in the room while the fire is going? Do you clean the firebox between usages, and is the chimney cleaned annually?



ATTIC

Do you regularly clean out lint, dust, and other debris from attic vents? Is your attic clear of flammable materials and other items that can easily catch fire?



DID YOU KNOW?

A home fire occurs every 93 seconds.



DID YOU KNOW?

December and January are the peak months for home fires.



DID YOU KNOW?

The likelihood of a home fire increases on Saturdays and Sundays and rises between the hours of 6 and 7 PM.

SOURCES: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), <https://www.nfpa.org>. American Red Cross, "Home Fires: America's Biggest Disaster Threat". Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), <https://www.esfi.org/resource/home-electrical-fires-184>.

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