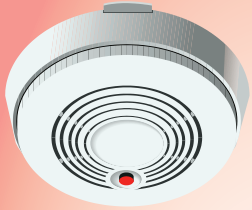


Smoke Alarms



- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, making sure that there is an alarm outside every separate sleeping area.

- Test your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.

- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm as soon as the alarm "chirps" warning that the battery is low.

- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms can't warn you of fire if their batteries are missing or have been disconnected.

- Don't disable smoke alarms even temporarily. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms," try relocating it farther from kitchens or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.

- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarms, following the manufacturer's instructions, can keep them working properly.

- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace yours once every 10 years. If you can't remember how old the alarm is, then it's probably time for a new one.

- Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.

Smoking Safety

- Designate a smoking area.
- Provide smokers with deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn, like mattresses, bedding, and upholstered furniture.
- Choose fire-safe cigarettes.



Know the Facts

- The leading cause of fires in the home are cooking (which leads to most fires and injuries), heating equipment, and electrical. Fires caused by smoking materials and heating equipment are the leading cause of home fire deaths.

- Roughly 80 percent of U.S. fire deaths occur in the home! In 2006, U.S. fire departments responded to almost 400,000 home structure fires and home fires killed 2,580 people (on average 7 people every day).

- 12,500 fire injuries from home fires were reported to U.S. fire departments in 2006.

- 65% of reported home fire deaths occurred in homes with either no smoke alarms or no *working* smoke alarms.

- December and January are the peak months for home structure fires and deaths.

You can prevent home fires and reduce the injuries, fatalities, and property damage they cause by following some simple precautions. This brochure is filled with information about where and why most fires start and how to protect your family. Make your home a fire safe home today and every day!

Contact your local fire department to find out how you can protect your home from fire and for details on **Fire Prevention Week activities in your area.**

(703) 228-4659

www.arlingtonva.us/Fire



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It's Fire Prevention Week

PREVENT HOME FIRES

October 5-11, 2008



HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOME?

Cooking Safety



• Watch what you heat

- Stay in the kitchen while all food is cooking.
- Turn off the stove if leaving the kitchen, even for a short time.
- Consider using a timer that alerts the cook when the food is done or needs to be checked.
- Remember, it only takes a few seconds for some foods to overheat and catch fire, especially when using oils or grease.

• Stay alert

- Avoid cooking when sleepy or drowsy.

• Keep things that can catch fire away from heat

- Do not store things that could burn, such as potholders, oven mitts dish towels or bags in the oven.

• Wear clothing with sleeves that are short, close fitting or tightly rolled up

• Know what to do if you have a cooking fire

- If clothing catches on fire, stop immediately. Walking or running will increase the intensity of the fire.
- Drop to the ground and cover the face with hands.
- Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is extinguished.
- Cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes.

• Keep kids and pets away from cooking area

- Have a “kid-free-zone” of 3 feet.
- Never hold a child while cooking, drinking or carrying hot foods or liquids.

- Teach children at a young age that hot things can burn.

- When children are old enough, teach them safe cooking behaviors.

• Prevent scalds and burns

- Turn pot handles away from the stove’s edge.
- Use the stove’s back burners to keep hot things further away from young children.

Heating Safety

• Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves. For wood stove fuel and fireplaces use only seasoned wood, not green wood, artificial logs, or trash.

- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

• Kerosene Heaters

- Kerosene heaters may not be permitted in certain areas. If you use a kerosene heater, use only the recommended fuel. Always refuel outdoors safely away from your home.

- Allow the heater to cool before refueling and only refuel outdoors.

• Space Heaters

- Just like its name, space heaters need space. Remember to keep all combustibles at least three feet away from each heater.

- When buying a space heater, look for control features, such as automatic shut-off and tip-over shut-off.

- In addition, carefully read over and follow the manufacturers’ installation and maintenance instructions.



• Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Consider building small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.

Electrical Safety

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.

- Avoid overloading receptacles.

- Plug only one high-wattage appliance at a time into a receptacle outlet.

- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.

- Install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to protect electrical outlets against fire by continuously monitoring the electrical current in a circuit and shutting off the circuit when unintended arcing occurs.

- Install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) electrical outlets in kitchens, bathrooms, outdoor areas, basements, and garages. GFCIs greatly reduce the risk of shock by shutting off an electrical circuit when the circuit could be a shock hazard.

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- ***Smoking is a leading cause of fire deaths.***
- ***Heating is a leading cause of home fire deaths.***
- ***Smoke alarms save lives!***

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