Home Fire Safety

In a typical home fire, smoke, heat and toxic gases build up rapidly. You could have less than three minutes to escape. This is why it's so important to have working smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan.

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level and outside each sleeping area.
- Test them monthly.
- Replace alkaline batteries when you change your clocks.
- Never disable alarms or take out the batteries while cooking.
- When replacing smoke alarms, choose new ones with sealed 10-year batteries.

Home Escape Planning

- Practice your home escape plan with the whole family twice a year.
- Plan two ways out of each room. The easy way out is probably the door and the second way out might be a window. Use the grid on the next page to draw your plan.
- If you plan for a child or a senior to exit a window, make sure they can open it easily.





window, and signal for help. Teach children never to hide under beds or in closets.

- If you must go through smoke, crawl low. The coolest, cleanest air will be about 18 inches off the ground.
- Set a meeting place out front a safe distance from the house. That way you can tell the fire department that everyone is out safely.
- Stay out; don't go back into a burning building for anything.
- Call the fire department from outside the house using a cellphone, a neighbor's phone or a fire alarm box.

Safe Smoking

- Try to quit again.
- Dispose of cigarettes and other smoking materials safely. Always use a sturdy ashtray with water or sand. Do not stub them out on porches, railings, or stairways. Don't discard them in the trash, on the ground, in mulch, or in flower pots.
- Use large ashtrays with center rests so cigarettes fall into the ashtray not on the floor. For health and fire safety reasons, permit smoking outside only.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep lighters on your person, not on a table or in a purse where children can find them.
- Never smoke in homes where oxygen is in use.

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FireFactors

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Cooking Safety

- Stand by your pan! Never leave cooking unattended.
- Put a lid on a grease fire to smother it then turn off the heat.
- Wear short or tightfitting sleeves when cooking. Loose sleeves easily catch fire.
- Never throw water on a grease fire. Water will spread the fire around.
- Never move a burning pan. You can easily ignite your clothes or spill the fire onto someone or something else.

COOKING #1 CAUSE OF HOME FIRES





Match and Lighter Safety

- Keep all matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children in a high, locked cabinet if possible.
- Teach children that matches and lighters are not toys, they are tools for grown-ups.
- Teach young children to tell a grown-up when they see matches or lighters lying around.
- Never give a lighter to a child as a toy.

Home Escape Planning Grid. Draw a floor plan of each person's room or the whole house.

