

HOME FIRE SAFETY ESSENTIALS

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48
FIRE

HOME FIRE SAFETY ESSENTIALS

Protect Your Family and Home

Most home fires are preventable. These simple fire safety measures can save lives and protect your property. Take a few minutes to make sure your home is fire-safe.



YOUR HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

SMOKE ALARMS - YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

- Smoke alarms installed on **EVERY** level of your home
- Smoke alarms **INSIDE** every bedroom
- Smoke alarms **OUTSIDE** each sleeping area
- Smoke alarms interconnected (when one sounds, all sound)
- Tested monthly by pushing the test button
- Batteries replaced at least once a year (or use 10-year sealed batteries)
- Entire smoke alarm replaced every 10 years
- Everyone in home knows the sound of the smoke alarm

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS - SILENT KILLER PROTECTION

- CO alarms installed on every level
- CO alarms outside each sleeping area
- CO alarms near fuel-burning appliances (furnace, water heater)
- Tested monthly
- Replaced according to manufacturer date (typically 5-7 years)
- Everyone knows CO alarm sound is different from smoke alarm

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - BE PREPARED

- At least one fire extinguisher in your home
- Fire extinguisher in the kitchen (but **NOT** right next to stove)
- Fire extinguisher easily accessible
- Everyone knows where fire extinguishers are located
- Adults trained on how to use extinguisher (PASS method)
- Pressure gauge shows in green zone
- Never expired or damaged

HOME ESCAPE PLAN - KNOW YOUR WAY OUT

- TWO** ways out of every room identified
- Escape routes drawn on floor plan
- Outside meeting place chosen (safe distance from home)
- Everyone knows the meeting place

- Practiced escape plan at least twice a year
- Practiced escaping with eyes closed (simulating smoke)
- Everyone knows how to call 911 from outside
- House numbers visible from street for emergency responders

EXITS & WINDOWS - MAKE SURE YOU CAN GET OUT

- All exit doors can be unlocked and opened from inside
- Windows open easily and aren't painted shut
- Security bars have quick-release mechanisms (if installed)
- Basement windows large enough to escape through
- Escape ladders available for second or third floor bedrooms
- No furniture blocking windows or exit doors

KITCHEN SAFETY - WHERE MOST FIRES START

- Stovetop area clear (nothing that can catch fire nearby)
- Pot handles turned inward when cooking
- Never leave cooking unattended (especially frying or grilling)
- Timer used when baking or simmering
- Cooking area clean and grease-free
- Kids kept away from hot stove (3-foot "kid-free zone")
- Flammable items (towels, paper, curtains) away from stove

HEATING SAFETY - WINTER FIRE PREVENTION

- Space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn
- Space heaters turned off when leaving room or going to bed
- Fireplace has sturdy screen
- Ashes cooled completely before disposal (24+ hours)
- Furnace inspected annually by professional
- Chimney cleaned and inspected annually
- Never use oven or stove to heat home

ELECTRICAL SAFETY - PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

- No overloaded outlets (one plug per outlet)
- Extension cords not used as permanent wiring
- No cords under rugs or furniture
- No damaged or frayed electrical cords
- Outlets and switches not warm to touch
- Appliances unplugged when not in use
- Professional electrician called for any electrical problems

SMOKING SAFETY - IF YOU MUST SMOKE

- Smoking materials kept out of reach of children
- Sturdy, deep ashtrays used
- Smoking material completely extinguished before disposal

- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy
- Never smoke around medical oxygen
- Cigarette butts soaked in water before disposal

GENERAL FIRE SAFETY

- Matches and lighters stored out of children's reach
- Candles in sturdy holders away from anything that can burn
- Candles never left unattended
- Flammable liquids stored in approved containers
- Clothes dryer lint trap cleaned after every load
- Dryer vent duct cleaned annually
- Bedroom doors closed at night (slows fire spread)

FIRE DANGER ZONES

KITCHEN – #1 CAUSE OF HOME FIRES

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Keep a lid nearby to smother grease fires
- Turn pot handles inward
- Keep flammables away from heat

BEDROOMS – WHERE MOST FIRE DEATHS OCCUR

- Install smoke alarm INSIDE every bedroom
- Close bedroom doors at night
- Plan two ways out
- Don't overload outlets with chargers

LIVING AREAS – COMMON FIRE HAZARDS

- Keep candles away from curtains and furniture
- Don't overload outlets or use damaged cords
- Turn off space heaters when leaving
- Keep fireplace screened

GARAGE & STORAGE – FLAMMABLE MATERIALS

- Store gasoline in approved containers
- Keep flammables away from heat sources
- Don't store oily rags (can spontaneously combust)
- Keep garage organized and exits clear

IF FIRE OCCURS: GET OUT, STAY OUT, CALL 911

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS:

1. **Yell "FIRE!"** to alert everyone
2. **Get everyone out** immediately
3. **Don't stop** to grab belongings
4. **Close doors** behind you (but don't lock)
5. **Stay low** if there's smoke (crawl)
6. **Feel doors** before opening (use back of hand)
7. **Go to meeting place** outside
8. **Call 911** from outside
9. **Never go back inside** for any reason
10. **Tell firefighters** if anyone is missing

IF YOU'RE TRAPPED:

- Close door between you and fire
- Stuff towels/clothing under door to block smoke
- Call 911 and tell them your exact location
- Go to window and signal for help
- Don't break window (unless necessary)

IF YOUR CLOTHES CATCH FIRE:

STOP – Don't run

DROP – Drop to ground

ROLL – Roll back and forth to smother flames

COOL – Run cool water over burns for 3-5 minutes

FIRE SAFETY FOR KIDS

TEACH CHILDREN:

- ✓ Fire is a tool, not a toy
- ✓ Never play with matches, lighters, or candles
- ✓ Tell an adult if they find matches or lighters
- ✓ The sound of smoke alarms
- ✓ What to do when alarm sounds
- ✓ Stop, Drop, and Roll
- ✓ Crawl low under smoke
- ✓ Never hide during a fire
- ✓ Once outside, stay outside

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:

- Practice escape plan every 6 months
- Practice at different times (day and night)
- Practice from different rooms
- Time your escapes (should be under 2 minutes)
- Make it fun but take it seriously

TEST YOUR FIRE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

How quickly do you need to escape a home fire?

→ You may have less than 3 minutes from alarm to flashover

How often should you test smoke alarms?

→ Monthly by pushing the test button

When should you replace smoke alarms?

→ Every 10 years, even if they seem to work

What's the #1 cause of home fires?

→ Cooking, especially unattended cooking

Where do most fire deaths occur?

→ In bedrooms at night while sleeping

Should you fight a fire with an extinguisher?

→ Only if: fire is small, room isn't filled with smoke, everyone is out, and 911 has been called

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

APARTMENTS & CONDOS

- Know all building exits
- Never use elevator during fire
- Participate in building fire drills
- Know where fire extinguishers are located
- If fire alarm sounds, LEAVE - don't assume it's a drill

MULTI-GENERATIONAL HOMES

- Make sure elderly family members can hear alarms
- Plan assistance for those with limited mobility
- Practice escape plan with everyone
- Consider bed-shaker alarms for hearing impaired

HOMES WITH DISABILITIES

- Alert fire department to special needs
- Create personalized escape plan
- Install visual smoke alarms if hearing impaired
- Have escape devices ready (wheelchair, walker)

SEASONAL FIRE SAFETY REMINDERS

WINTER HAZARDS

- ❄ Space heater fires
- ❄ Fireplace and chimney fires
- ❄ Holiday decoration fires
- ❄ Overloaded outlets from holiday lights

SUMMER HAZARDS

- ☀ Grill fires (keep 10 feet from house)
- ☀ Fireworks (leave to professionals)
- ☀ Outdoor burning (check local regulations)
- ☀ Extension cord overuse (AC units, fans)

GET PROFESSIONAL HELP

When to Call 48Fire:

- ✓ **Smoke Alarm Installation** - Proper placement and interconnection
- ✓ **Fire Extinguisher Service** - Sales, training, inspection
- ✓ **Home Fire Safety Assessment** - Professional evaluation
- ✓ **Escape Plan Assistance** - Expert guidance
- ✓ **Fire Safety Education** - Family training sessions
- ✓ **Carbon Monoxide Alarm Installation** - Proper placement

FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Let 48Fire Help Protect Your Family

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We Serve:

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REMEMBER THESE KEY FACTS:

🔥 **You have less than 3 minutes** to escape a home fire

⏰ **Smoke alarms cut fire death risk in half** when properly installed and maintained

🚪 **Closed doors save lives** - sleep with bedroom doors closed

 **Everyone needs to know** two ways out of every room

 **Call 911 from outside** - never go back inside

 **Practice makes perfect** - drill your escape plan twice a year

Home fires kill 7 people every day in the United States. Most of these deaths could be prevented with working smoke alarms and a practiced escape plan. Take fire safety seriously—it could save your family.

This guide provides general fire safety information for educational purposes. Consult with local fire department and fire safety professionals for specific guidance applicable to your home.

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Protecting Families and Homes Nationwide

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