



10 Tips for Fire Safety

A Fact Sheet on how we can make our homes Fire safe



1. Install Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms can alert you to a Fire in your home in time for you to escape, even if you are sleeping. Install alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and in each sleeping area. Benton County Fire District #1 also recommends sleeping with your door closed. Test each alarm every month, following the manufacturer's directions, and replace batteries once a year, or whenever an alarm "chirps" to signal a low battery. Never "borrow" a smoke alarm battery for another use — a disabled alarm can't save your life. Replace alarms that are more than ten years old.

2. Plan Your Escape From Fire

If a fire breaks out in your home, you have to get out fast. To prepare, sit down with your family and agree on an escape plan. Be sure that everyone knows at least two unobstructed exits — doors and windows — from every room. (If you live in an apartment building, do

not include elevators in your escape plan.)

Decide on a meeting place outside where everyone will meet after they escape. Have your entire household practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

3. Keep an Eye on Smokers

Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in North America. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy smokers with large, deep, non-tip ashtrays and soak butts with water before discarding them. Before going to bed or leaving home after Someone has been smoking, check Under and around cushions and upholstered furniture for smoldering cigarettes.

4. Cook Carefully

Never leave cooking unattended. Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear clothes with short sleeves when you cook. Turn pot handles inward on the stove, where you can't bump them and children can't grab them. If grease catches fire in a pan, slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the heat source. Keep lid on until pan is completely cooled.

5. Give Space Heaters Space

Keep portable and space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn.

Keep children and pets away from

heaters and never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed.

6. Matches and Lighters Are Tools Not Toys

In a child's hand matches and lighters can be deadly. Buy child resistant lighters and store all matches and lighters up high, where kids can't see or reach them, preferably in a locked cabinet. Teach your children that matches and lighters are tools, not toys, And should be used only by adults or with adult supervision. Teach small children to tell an adult if they find matches or lighters; older children should bring matches and lighters to an adult immediately.



7. Stop, Drop, and Roll

If your clothes catch fire, don't run. Stop wherever you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll over and over to smother the flames.

8. Use Electricity Safely

If an electric appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately, then have it serviced before using it again. Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed. Don't overload or run extension cords under rugs. Don't tamper with your fuse box or use improperly-sized fuses.

9. Crawl Low Under Smoke

During a fire, smoke and poisonous gases rise with the heat. The air is cleaner near the floor. If you must escape through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest exit, keeping your head 12 to 24 inches above the floor.

10. Install Home Sprinkler Systems

If you install sprinklers in your home, the fire will be out over 96% of the time before fire-fighters arrive! They can be installed even after your home has been built. The average cost is about \$1 per sq. ft. The chances of a home sprinkler accidentally going off are about 1 in 16,000,000.

For More Information

Contact:

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