

Fire Safety And Prevention Tips



Children

- ◆ In case of a fire, go to a neighbor's home and call **911**
- ◆ Practice your E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drill In The Home) Plan with your family. Know two ways out of every room in your home.
- ◆ Keep bedroom doors closed. This will keep smoke out and give you more time to make your escape.
- ◆ When you hear your smoke detector, roll out of your bed and stay low to the floor. Exit your home as quickly as you can by crawling under the smoke. Never hide, go outside. If you hide the firefighters may not be able to find you.
- ◆ If your clothes catch fire, "STOP, DROP, AND ROLL." Drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands to keep fire away from your face, and continue rolling until the fire goes out.
- ◆ Matches and lighters are "tools", NOT "toys." They can be deadly in the hands of a child. If your child exhibits an abnormal curiosity with fire, contact the Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau.
- ◆ If someone gets burned, cool the burn with cold water for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars see a doctor immediately. Set the temperature of your hot water heater to 120 degrees or lower.
- ◆ Fireworks are dangerous! Even sparklers, which burn as hot as 1200 degrees, cause thousands of injuries to children each year. Attend professional displays and leave fireworks to technicians who are trained to use them.

Adults

- ◆ Develop a home escape plan with your family. Practice your plan several times a year. Make sure all members of your family know what to do to evacuate in the event of a fire in your home.
- ◆ Install and maintain smoke detectors in your home. Detectors must be located in all bedrooms, outside all sleeping areas, and on every level of your home. Detectors must be tested monthly, and the batteries must be replaced when you change your clocks in the spring and fall. You may not be home when the low battery signal (the chirp sound) activates.
- ◆ Install a portable fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen. Use the fire extinguisher only if you or someone else has called 911. If you cannot control the fire immediately leave the house. Most extinguishers operate using the "PASS METHOD":

P... Pull the pin

A... Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire (The leading edge)

S... Squeeze the handle to activate the extinguisher

S... Sweep the nozzle from side to side, pushing the fire away from you

- ◆ Install residential home fire sprinklers. Generally they are installed in the construction phase, but homes can be retrofitted. These affordable sprinkler systems will control or extinguish most residential fires with minimal water damage.
- ◆ Cooking Safety - Cooking is the number one cause of home fires in the United States. The leading cause of home cooking fires and injuries is unattended cooking.

-Always keep an eye on cooking food. If you leave the kitchen, turn off the heat. If you leave the kitchen momentarily to answer a telephone or for some other reason, take a pot holder or some other item to remind you that you left something cooking.

-Enforce a 3-foot "kid free zone" around the range and teach your children not to play in that area.

-Turn pot handles inward so that little ones cannot reach them.

-If a small pan fire does occur, carefully slide a lid over the fire onto the pan and then turn off the burner. Never pour water on a grease fire, because splashing grease can spread the fire. Do not try to carry the burning pan of grease to the sink or outside. This is extremely dangerous because the grease can spill out onto your



hand causing a severe burn and causing you to drop the pan spreading the fire throughout the house. Call 911.

- ◆ Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States (During December, January, and February it is the leading cause).

- Use only listed and tested heating equipment (by an independent testing laboratory. Example: Underwriters Laboratory). Use and maintain all heating equipment in accordance with its listing and the manufacturer's instructions.

- Use heating equipment at least 36 inches from any combustibles.

- If you leave the room or the house, turn off all portable and space heaters.

- Use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer for liquid fuel space heaters. Never use gasoline or any other substitute fuel, never fuel while the equipment is still hot, and never fuel the heating equipment indoors.

- Fireplace chimneys should be inspected and cleaned before every heating season. Use only woods which produce low creosote levels.

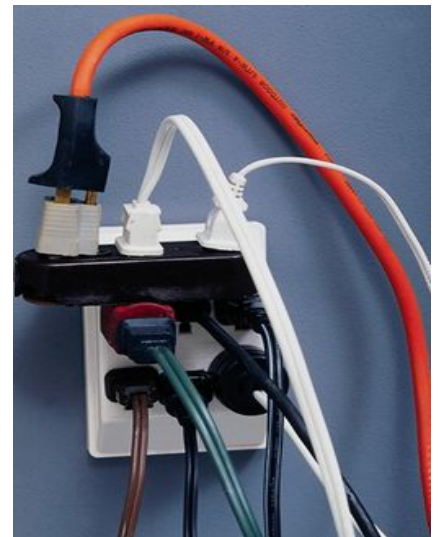
- CAUTION:** Portable LP gas (propane) heaters with self contained fuel supplies (cabinet heaters) are prohibited for home use by NFPA fire safety standards.

- ◆ Electrical fires are 3 times more likely to occur in homes over 40 years of age than in homes 11 to 20 years old. This is due to the fact that older wiring may not have the capacity to safely handle newer appliances and equipment.

- Extension cords are meant for temporary use only (running the vacuum, portable lights, etc.) and should be unplugged when not in use.

- Appliance cords must be replaced if they become cracked, damaged or frayed. Cords should never be placed under rugs or runners.

- Call a professional electrician to identify the reason for repeated blown fuses or tripped breakers, and make repairs as needed.



◆ Gasoline and other flammable liquids.

-Flammable liquids should be stored in approved (listed) safety containers, never in glass containers. The containers should be kept outside the house in a separate storage shed.

- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids as a cleaning fluid to clean equipment.

-Never re-fuel hot equipment (lawn mowers, weed eaters, etc.). Allow the equipment to cool down.

-Never fill a gas can with it in the bed of a truck, place the can on the ground to reduce the possibility of a static charge igniting the gasoline vapors.

Seniors Note: Many of the safety tips listed above apply to seniors as well.

◆ Careless smoking accounts for nearly one-third of the fire deaths in adults over the age of 70.

-Never smoke in bed, while drowsy, or while under the influence of medication or alcohol.

-Use large deep ashtrays so smoking materials don't fall out.

-Never empty ashtrays into a wastebasket. At the end of the evening set them in the sink and fill them with water.

◆ Limit the use and storage of ordinary combustibles (paper, wood, cloth, etc.). Store them properly and keep ignition sources away from them.