



Home Fire Safety

U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 358,500 residential fires over the last few years. Here's how you can prepare and prevail in the event a fire happens at your home.



5 ways to prepare

1. Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room of your home and designate a "family meeting spot" outside.
2. Create a family emergency communications plan and ensure your household members know who to contact if they get separated.
3. Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year. Press the smoke alarm test button or yell "fire!" to alert everyone that they must get out.
4. Teach household members to STOP, DROP and ROLL if their clothes catch on fire.
5. Make sure everyone knows how to dial 9-1-1.



Be smoke alarm savvy

- In new homes, National Fire Alarm Code (NFPA 72) requires hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms with battery back-up on every level of the home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. Alarms must be wired together so that if one sounds, they all sound.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly. The test feature tests all electronic functions and is safer than testing with matches, lighters or lighters.
- Replace your smoke alarm batteries twice a year. An easy way to remember is the start and end of Daylight Savings Time: Change the clocks, change the batteries!
- Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years. This is the recommendation of the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Smoke alarms become less sensitive over time.



Candle with caution

- Candles and Kids don't mix. Don't leave a child alone with a candle and keep matches and lighters out of reach.
- Never use candles when oxygen is in use in the room
- Always use flashlights and battery-powered lights during a power outage. Candles don't last and are easy to tip in dim lighting.
- Don't burn candles all the way down - extinguish them before they reach the bottom of the holder base.
- Your safest bet? Replace wax candles with flameless, battery-operated candles and enjoy the glow without a worry!

