



Homeland
Security

FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

ALTERNATIVE HEATER SAFETY

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase survival rates dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Heating is the second leading cause of residential fires.
- Deaths due to fires caused by heating a home are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov

ALTERNATIVE HEATER SAFETY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Kerosene heaters are not permitted in many areas. If you use a kerosene heater, use only the recommended fuel. Always refuel outdoors safely away from your home.
- Allow your heater to cool before refueling and only refuel outdoors.
- Keep the fire in the fireplace by making sure you have a screen large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs.
- Clean your chimney regularly – chimney tar build-up can ignite your chimney, roof and the whole house.
- Space heaters need space. Keep combustibles at least three feet away from each heater.
- When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- Carefully follow manufacturers' installation and maintenance instructions.
- For wood stove fuel use only seasoned wood, not green wood, artificial logs or trash.
- In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke and have an escape plan already worked out. Get out, stay out.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

APPLIANCE FIRE SAFETY

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Each year there are 24,300 residential appliance fires resulting in 100 deaths and 925 injuries.
- Some electrical fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects. However, many more are caused by misuse, poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chance of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

APPLIANCE FIRE SAFETY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Regularly inspect your extension cords for fraying and never use an extension cord as permanent wiring.
- Instead of a simple extension cord, get a UL-approved unit with built-in circuit breakers.
- Routinely check your wiring. Look for outlets that don't work, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Never overload outlets or extension cords.
- Immediately repair appliances or lamps that sputter or spark.
- Keep appliances away from wet areas, especially in the kitchen, bathroom, basement and garage.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, never force it into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Don't let children play near electrical space heaters. Keep clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least three feet away from heaters.
- Prepare and practice a home fire escape plan.
- In case of a fire, crawl or stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

BEDROOM FIRES

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- The bedroom is the most common room in the house where electrical fires start.
- Deaths due to bedroom fires are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chance of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

PREVENT BEDROOM FIRES

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Keep lighters, matches and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of reach of children. Children are one of the highest risk groups for death in residential fires.
- Keep lit candles away from bedding, curtains, papers and anything else that can ignite easily.
- Do not run electrical cords under your bed or trap them against a wall where heat can build up. Avoid overloading extension cords.
- Take extra care when using portable heaters. Keep bedding, clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least three feet away from space heaters.
- Only use lab-approved electric blankets and warmers. Check to make sure the cords are not frayed.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two escape routes from their bedrooms and practice these often.
- In case of a fire, stay low to the ground beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out. Get out, stay out.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- The bedroom is the most common room in the house where candle fires start.
- Deaths due to candle fires are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chance of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

CANDLE FIRES

Candle Fire Safety

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Put out candles after use.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets. Children are one of the highest risk groups for death in residential fires.
- Keep lit candles away from bedding, curtains, papers and anything else that can ignite easily.
- Ensure candles are in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders and put where they cannot be tipped over.
- Most candle fires occur in bedrooms. Keep your home, especially the bedrooms, fire-safe.
- Never leave a lit candle unattended.
- In case of a fire, stay low to the ground beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out. Get out, stay out.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

CARELESS SMOKING

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Careless smoking is the second leading cause of fire deaths.
- Deaths due to fires caused by careless smoking are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

CARELESS SMOKING

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Never smoke in bed. Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Don't put ashtrays on the arms of sofas or chairs.
- Use deep ashtrays and soak ashes in water before disposal.
- Don't leave cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended. Put out all smoking materials before you walk away.
- If you begin to feel drowsy while watching television or reading, extinguish your cigarette or cigar.
- Close a matchbook before striking and hold it away from your body. Set your lighter on "low" flame.
- If smokers have visited, be sure to check the floor and around chair cushions for ashes that may have dropped accidentally.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan. In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke. Get out. Stay out.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

CHILDREN & FIRE

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Each year about 300 people are killed and \$280 million in property is destroyed in fires attributed to children playing with fire.
- Deaths due to fires caused by children playing with fire are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire nearly one-half.

Visit www.usfaparents.gov for more information on fire safety for babies and toddlers. Contact your local fire department to learn how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths by calling a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

CHILDREN & FIRE

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Keep matches, lighters and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of the reach of children.
- Teach your children to tell you when they find matches and lighters.
- Always dress children in pajamas that meet federal flammability standards. Avoid dressing children for sleep in loose-fitting, 100 percent cotton garments, such as oversized T-shirts.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters, but to get out quickly and call for help from another location.
- Show children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out.
- Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground and roll if clothes catch fire.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside. Get out and stay out.
- Familiarize children with the sound of your smoke alarm.
- Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.
- For more fire safety information for young children visit www.usfaparents.gov.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. It is also the leading cause of fire injuries.
- Deaths due to fires caused by cooking are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

COOKING FIRES

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Never leave cooking unattended. A serious fire can start in just seconds.
- Always wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away from flames and heating elements.
- Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup which can ignite.
- If a fire breaks out while cooking, put a lid on the pan to smother it. Never throw water on a grease fire.
- Heat oil gradually to avoid burns from spattering grease. Use extra caution when preparing deep-fried foods.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure all small appliances are turned off.

COOKING FIRES



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Senior citizens, age 65 and older, and children under the age of five are at the greatest risk of death from fire.
- Deaths due to an inability to escape are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Know your local emergency numbers. In most areas the number is 911.
- Practice finding your way out of the house with your eyes closed, crawling or staying low and feeling your way out of the house.
- Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- Teach your family to stop, drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- Designate a meeting place outside and take attendance. Get out and stay out.
- Remember to escape first, then notify the fire department.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two ways to escape from each room in the house.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- There are an estimated 300 fires and 30 injuries resulting from Christmas tree fires each year.
- Most holiday fires can be easily prevented.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree and cause it to more easily ignite by heat, flame or sparks.
- Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove.
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is to take it to a recycling center or have it collected by a community pick-up service.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear.
- Only use UL approved lighting.
- Do not overload outlets. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Do not leave lit holiday lights unattended.
- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked over.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

MANUFACTURED HOME SAFETY

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Smoke alarms are less likely to be present or operating in manufactured homes.
- There is a higher fire death rate per one hundred manufactured homes as compared to other home fires.
- Cooking is the leading cause of fires in manufactured homes.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

MANUFACTURED HOME SAFETY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- Have a minimum of two smoke alarms installed in your home regardless of sleeping space arrangements.
- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Maintain your home heating system by having it serviced at least once a year by a professional.
- Do not store combustibles or flammables near heat sources.
- Never overload outlets, extension cords or electrical circuits. If the circuit breaker trips or fuses blow, call a licensed electrician to check your system.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with your family.
- If there is a fire, get out immediately and stay out. Go to a neighbor's home and call the emergency phone number in your area. In most areas the number is 911.
- Space heaters need their space. Keep heaters at least three feet away from drapes, clothing or other combustible materials.
- Install skirting material to keep leaves and other debris and combustible items from blowing under your manufactured home.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

PORTABLE GENERATORS

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed but they can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using them are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock or electrocution and fire. The U.S Fire Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) offer the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple safety tips can increase survival rates dramatically.

Did you know?

- From 1990-2003, 228 carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning deaths were associated with portable generators, as reported to the CPSC.
- From 2001 to 2003, the number of reported (CO) poisoning deaths associated with portable generators doubled.
- The most common improper placement of portable generators that result in injury or death are in crawl spaces, basements, attached garages, within or in close proximity to the home.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- Always use generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. NEVER use generators inside homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces, or other enclosed or partially enclosed areas, even with ventilation.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Install battery-operated or plug-in (with battery backup) carbon monoxide alarms in your home, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Test CO detectors often and replace batteries when needed.
- Keep the generator dry. Use on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Dry your hands before touching the generator.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor-rated extension cord. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all 3 prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- NEVER plug the generator into a wall outlet (known as back-feeding). This practice can cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and others served by the same utility transformer.
- If you must connect a generator to house wiring, have a qualified electrician install appropriate equipment. Your utility company may be able to install an appropriate transfer switch as well.
- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.
- Always store fuel outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass containers.
- Store fuel away from any fuel-burning appliance.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

RURAL FIRE SAFETY

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Heating is the leading cause of residential fires in rural areas.
- Deaths due to fires in rural areas are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov, www.firewise.org, or www.ready.gov.

RURAL FIRE SAFETY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- When building a home or addition, use fire-resistant roofing materials. Avoid using wood materials that offer the least fire protection. Also use fire-resistant siding such as stucco, brick, stone, etc.
- Let your landscape defend your property. Create defensible space by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet of your home.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home and other structures.
- Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home, at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.
- Burning yard waste is a fire hazard. Check with your fire department on a non-emergency number for fire permit requirements and restricted burning times.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned regularly by a certified specialist.
- Provide emergency vehicle access with properly constructed driveways and roadways, at least 12 feet wide with adequate turnaround space.
- Post home address signs that are clearly visible from the road.
- Develop and practice fire escape and evacuation plans with your family.



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Americans over the age of 65 are one of the groups at highest risk of dying in a home fire.
- People age 65-75 are twice as likely as the general population, 75-85 are three times as likely, and 85+ are four and one-half times as likely to be killed in a house fire.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

Visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/50Plus for more information on seniors and fire safety. Contact your local fire department to learn how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths by calling a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

SENIORS & FIRE

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- The kitchen is a high danger zone for fire, so be extra cautious when cooking. Remember not to leave cooking food unattended and don't wear loose clothing when cooking.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Double-check the kitchen to be sure the oven and all small appliances are turned off before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Never smoke in bed. Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Keep flammable materials, such as drapes and clothing at least three feet away from your heater.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- In case of a fire, crawl or stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke. Get out. Stay out.

SENIORS & FIRE



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FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

SMOKE ALARMS

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly one half.
- Nearly one-third of the residential fires and two-fifths of residential fire fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

SMOKE ALARMS

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside bedrooms. If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm in each bedroom.
- Check smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button. If you cannot reach the button easily, use a broom handle.
- Change the batteries in your alarms at least once a year – perhaps when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do – leave the building immediately by crawling low under the smoke – when they hear it sound.
- If cooking smoke sets off the alarm, do not disable it. Turn on the range fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm.
- Do not remove the batteries to put in other appliances such as personal stereos or games.
- Smoke alarms wear out over time. Replace yours if it is 10 years old or more.
- Keep smoke alarms clean. Dust and debris can interfere with their operation. Vacuum over and around your smoke alarm regularly.
- Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.



More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had known how to avoid such a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving information that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives!

The combination of working smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers reduces the likelihood of death from fire by more than 80 percent.

The most effective fire loss prevention and reduction measure for both life and property is the installation and maintenance of home fire sprinklers. Fire sprinkler systems offer the optimum level of fire safety because they control the fire immediately in the room of origin, help limit the spread of fire, and often extinguish it before the fire department arrives.

What do home fire sprinklers do?

Home fire sprinklers automatically contain a fire, preventing it from spreading. Only the sprinklers in the fire area are activated.

Are home fire sprinklers costly and difficult to install?

Home fire sprinklers use narrow piping that requires minimal water pressure to move water from the tap to the source of a fire. Home sprinklers require less water to operate than those in industrial or commercial establishments.

In general, the cost of installing sprinklers in a new home is approximately 1 percent of the total cost of the home. Older homes can be retrofitted with sprinklers, but the cost may be higher than when installing them during the new home construction process.

Advantages for the homeowner.

Sprinklers can put out or contain a fire even before the fire department arrives. This results in less overall damage to property from smoke, fire and water than if the fire had continued unabated or if fire fighting hose lines had been used.

Home sprinklers are smaller than commercial and industrial sprinklers, and they can be aesthetically coordinated with any room décor.

Families with children, senior citizens, and physically impaired members have special fire protection needs. Home sprinkler systems provide added protection for these people.

For more information on the U.S. Fire Administration public education campaigns or to speak with a USFA spokesperson, please call 202-842-3600. Also visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov for additional information on fire safety.



Homeland
Security

FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Electrical fires are a special concern during the winter months, which call for more indoor activities and increased use of lighting, heating and appliances.
- Deaths caused by winter fires are particularly preventable.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

WINTER FIRES

WINTER FIRES

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- For increased protection, USFA recommends installing both ionization (detects fast-burning fires) and photoelectric (detects slow, smoldering fires), or dual sensor smoke alarms in the home per manufacturers' installation instructions and applicable codes. Install smoke alarms in each bedroom.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed, away from combustible surfaces, have the proper floor support and adequate ventilation. Never use flammable liquids (such as gasoline) to start or accelerate fire.
- Make sure your space heaters have an emergency shut off in case they tip over. Kerosene heaters are not permitted in many areas. ONLY use the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. Refuel outside, away from the house.
- Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. Chimney tar build-up is a common cause of chimney fires.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks igniting nearby carpets or furniture.
- Never thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch or other open flame. Use hot water or a UL listed device such as a hand held dryer.
- Dispose of hot ashes in covered metal containers placed away from the house.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow for easy access.