

# How Smokers Can Reduce Their Risk of Fire

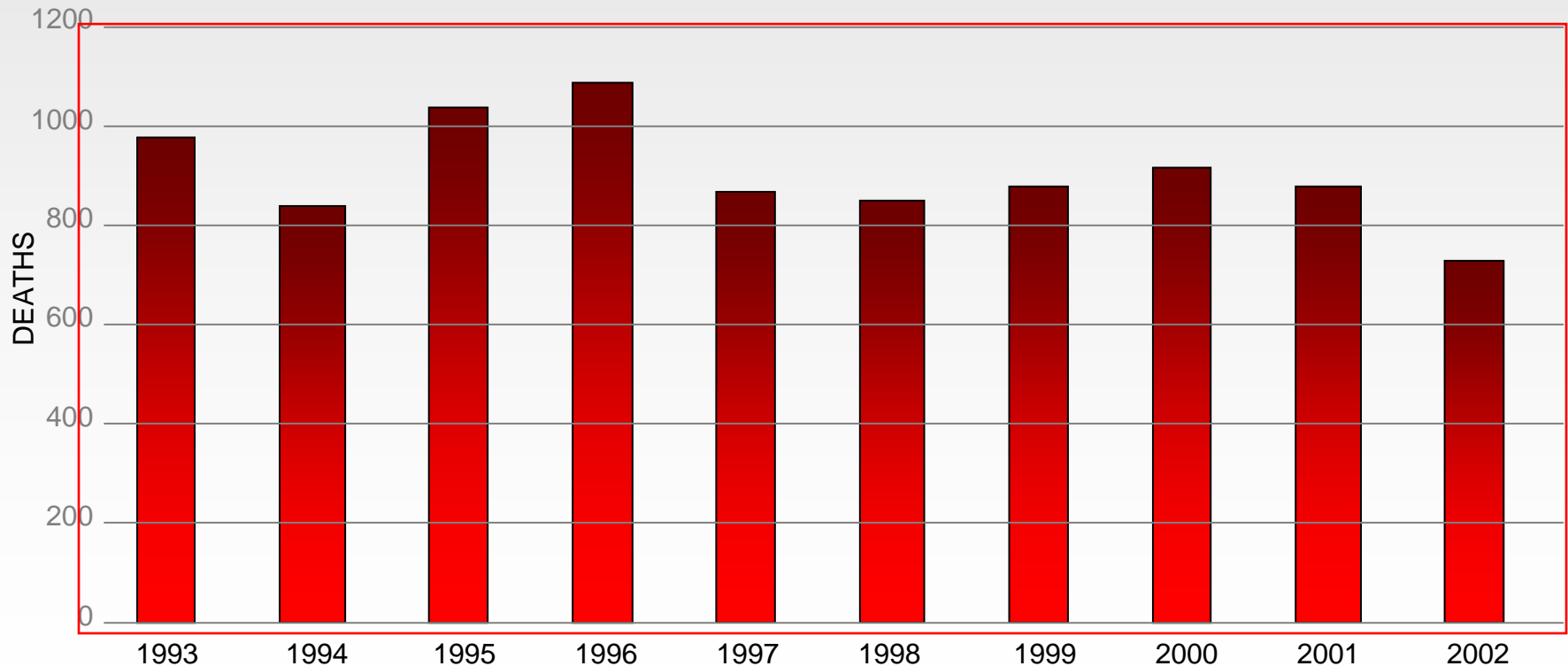
Practical Steps Recommended  
by Fire Safety Experts

# How Smokers Can Reduce Their Risk of Fire



# Cigarettes are #1 cause of U.S. fatal home fires

900 deaths a year over past decade



Cigarette fires are MUCH more likely to start VERY close to potential victims

- 3 out of 10 sleeping victims of cigarette fires are right next to the fire when it starts compared to 3 out of 100 sleeping victims of all other types of fires
- Once a fire starts this close to a sleeping person, nothing is quick enough to save you with confidence. There is no substitute for prevention.

# Cigarette fires also kill people who do not smoke

- 1 in 4 fatal victims are not the smokers whose cigarettes started the fire
- These other fatal victims include:
  - Children of smokers
  - Parents of smokers
  - Spouses and partners
  - Neighbors and friends

Fatal cigarette fires usually begin in soft furnishings



Fatal cigarette fires usually begin in soft furnishings



If you smoke,  
smoke outdoors



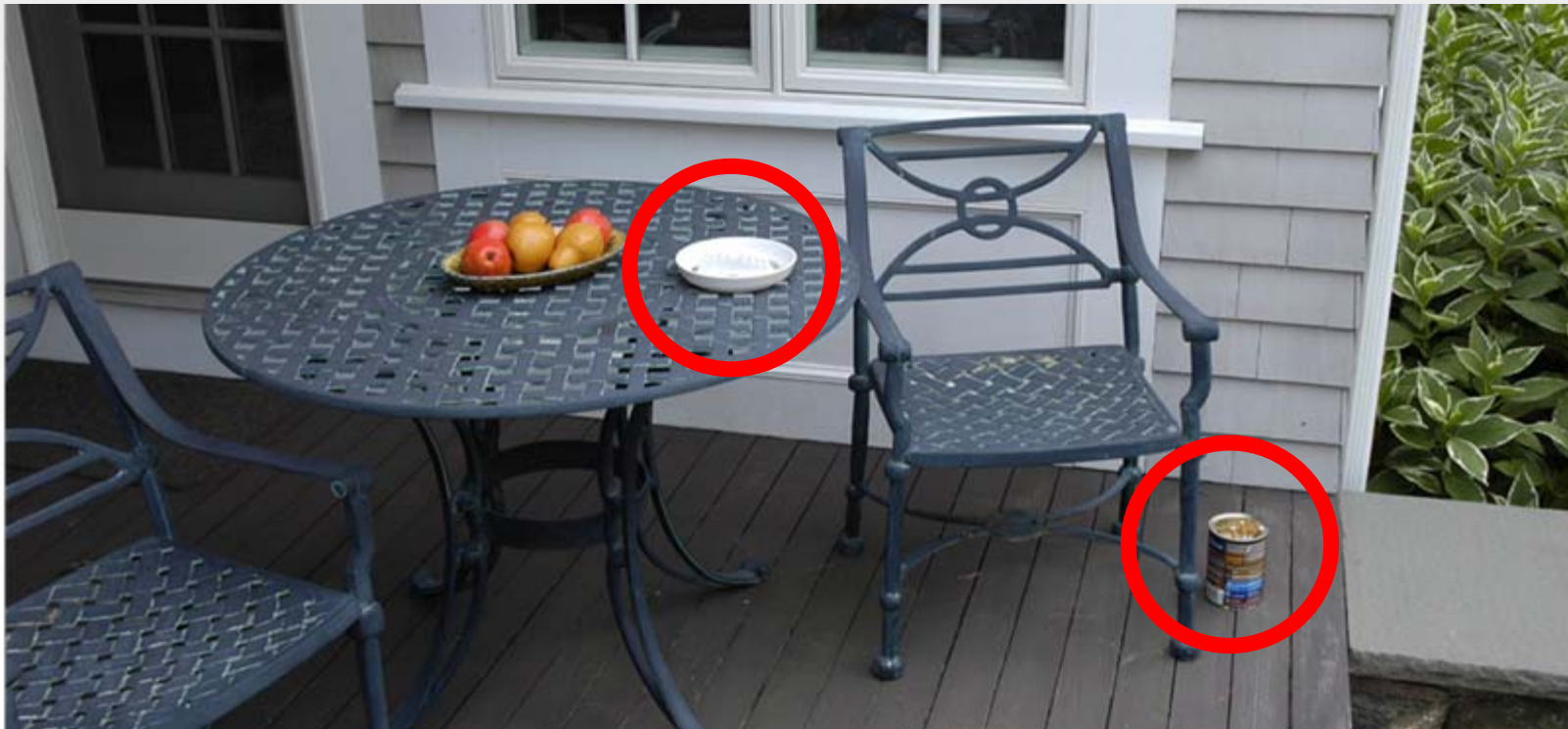
# If you smoke, smoke outdoors

There are fewer soft furnishings outdoors and if fire starts on a balcony, patio or deck, walls and doors separate the outdoors from the indoors



# If you smoke, smoke outdoors

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# If you smoke, smoke outdoors

For extra safety, dispose of cigarettes in something made for outdoor use



# If you smoke, smoke outdoors

- It's not that big a change
  - 1 in 4 people who smoke every day or some days already have rules *at home* that forbid indoor smoking
  - 1 in 2 people who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lives already have rules *at home* that forbid indoor smoking
  - Most smokers report that their workplaces already forbid indoor smoking

Use deep,  
sturdy ashtrays

Use deep, sturdy ashtrays

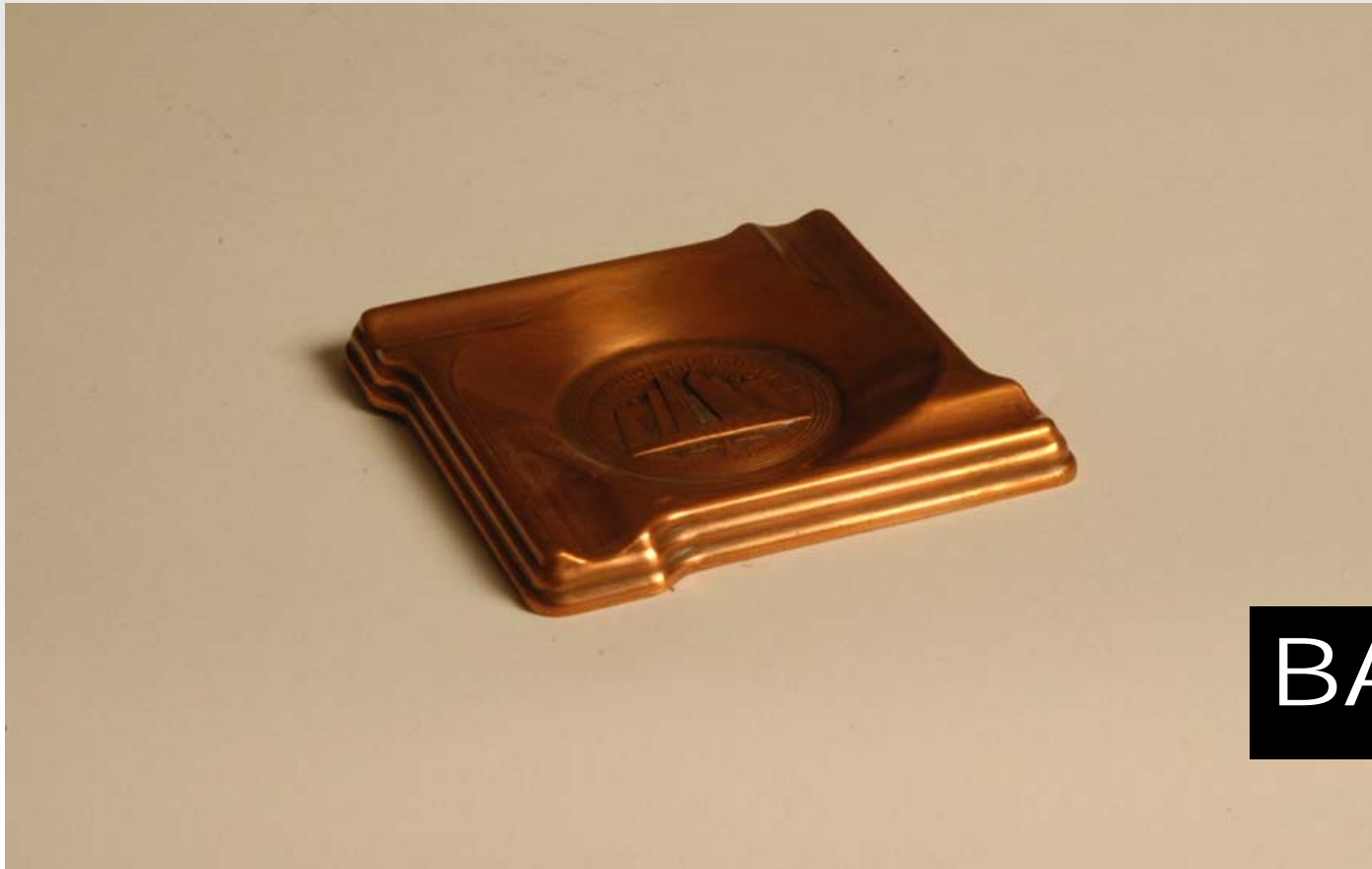
Use wide, deep ashtrays with room for ashes



GOOD

Use deep, sturdy ashtrays

Use wide, deep ashtrays with room for ashes



**BAD**

# Use deep, sturdy ashtrays

Use ashtrays that are hard to tip over or knock over



GOOD



GOOD

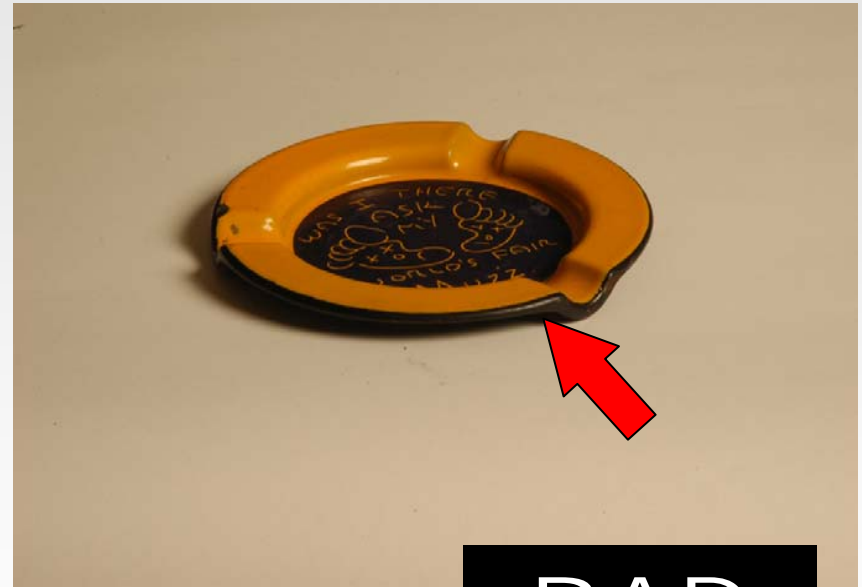


# Use deep, sturdy ashtrays

Use ashtrays that are hard to tip over or knock over



**BAD**



**BAD**

# Use deep, sturdy ashtrays

Use ashtrays with sides that slope in or are straight up from the base



GOOD



GOOD

# Use deep, sturdy ashtrays

Use ashtrays with sides that slope in or are straight up from the base



**BAD**



**BAD**

# Use deep, sturdy ashtrays

Use wide ashtrays so cigarettes will fall into ashtray, not out of it



**GOOD**



**BAD**

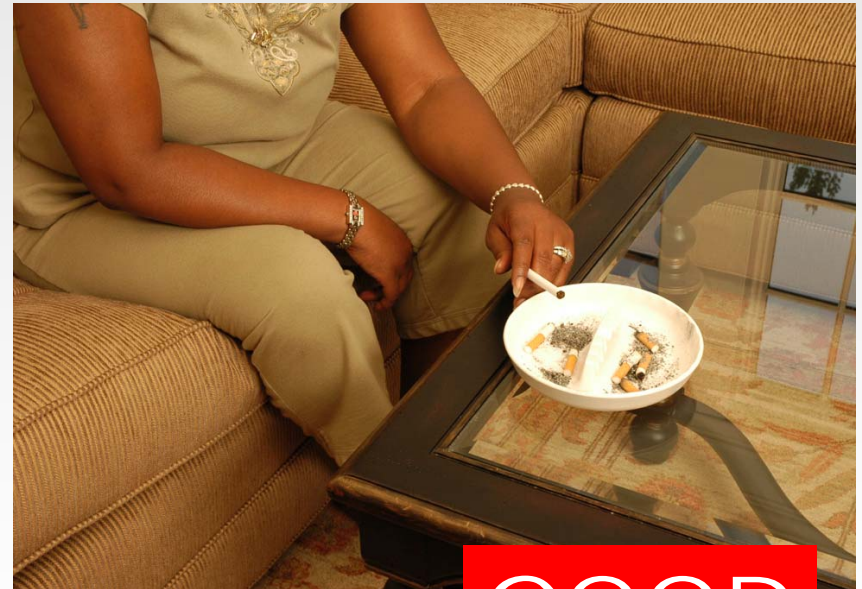
Tips on  
where to place  
your ashtray

Put ashtrays  
near you  
but away from  
things that burn.

Put ashtrays near you but away from things that burn

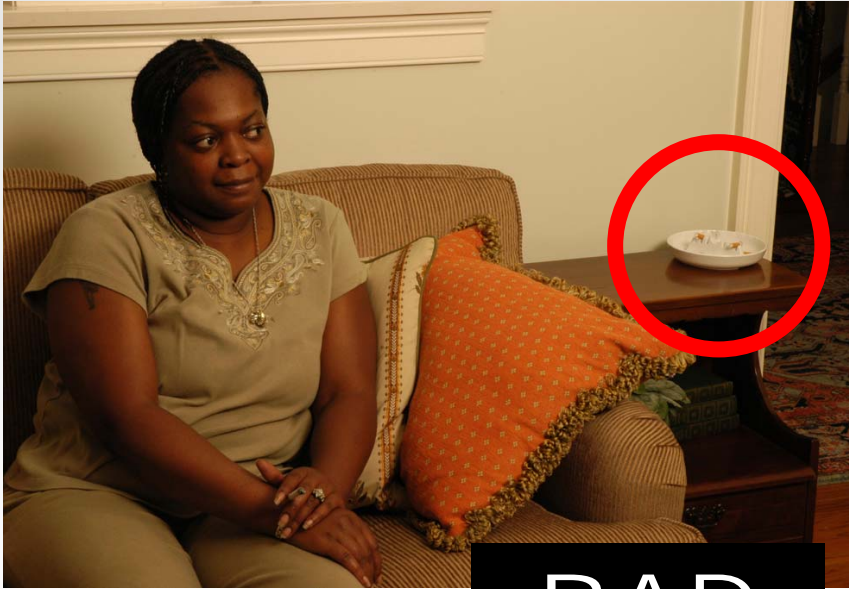


GOOD



GOOD

Put ashtrays near you but away from things that burn



**BAD**



**BAD**

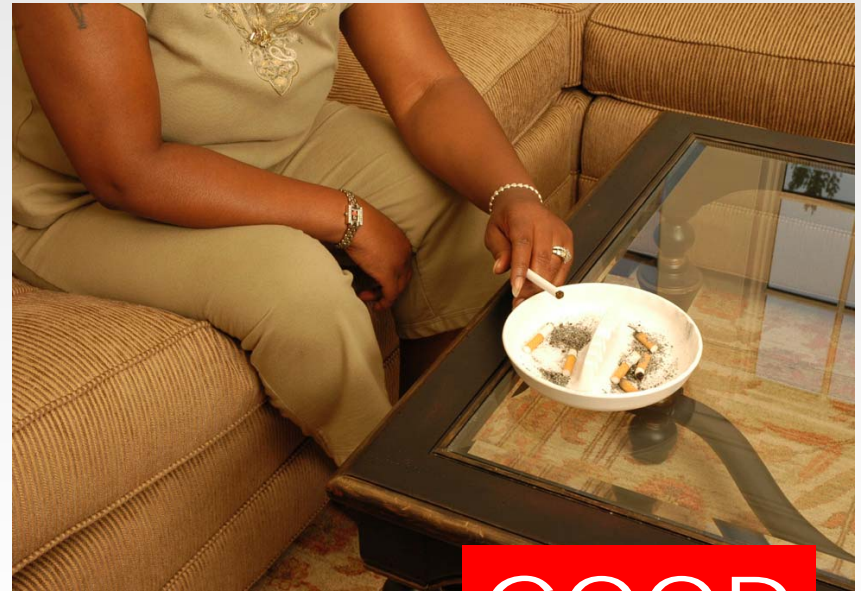


Keep ashtrays  
on a flat,  
sturdy base.

# Keep ashtrays on a flat, sturdy base



GOOD



GOOD

Keep ashtrays on a flat, sturdy base



**BAD**



**BAD**

Make sure  
cigarettes  
are OUT!

# Make sure cigarettes are OUT!

Dowsing with water or sand is the best way to be sure your cigarette is out



**GOOD**



**GOOD**

# Make sure cigarettes are OUT!

Smothering butts in a "silent butler" works too, if they are left overnight



GOOD



GOOD

Check for  
cigarettes that  
may have fallen  
out of sight

Check for cigarettes that may have fallen out of sight





Check for cigarettes that may have fallen out of sight



NEVER smoke  
near oxygen

# NEVER smoke near oxygen

- Oxygen makes any fire burn hotter and faster
- If medical oxygen is used in a home...
- *Never* smoke ANYWHERE in that home!!!
- Do not smoke even if oxygen is turned off

If you smoke,  
use reduced  
ignition strength  
cigarettes

# If you smoke, choose Reduced Ignition Strength Cigarettes

- These are cigarettes that go out when not actively smoked
- Cigarette burning is interrupted using non-toxic methods - for example, bands of paper that act like speed bumps
- Look for special markings on labels

Stay alert to  
control your  
cigarettes

# Stay alert to control your cigarettes

- 3 out of 4 home fires that start because someone fell asleep are cigarette fires
- 3 out of 4 fatal victims of home cigarette fires had some condition of reduced alertness – asleep or impaired by alcohol or other drugs

# Summary of advice



# How smokers can reduce their fire risk - Summary of advice

1. If you smoke, smoke outdoors
2. Use deep, wide, sturdy ashtrays on a safe, sturdy base
3. Make sure cigarettes are OUT
4. Check for cigarettes that may have fallen out of sight
5. Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used
6. If you smoke, choose Reduced Ignition Strength Cigarettes
7. Stay alert to control your cigarettes