

Why Should I Know About House Fires?

By paying close attention to these issues, each of us can share the responsibility of keeping our homes safe from fire...

- Every 15 seconds firefighters respond to a fire somewhere in the United States.
- 65% of percent of home fire deaths occur as a result of defective smoke alarms.
- A fire can grow from first spark to full blaze in just 3 minutes.
- Most fatal fires begin late at night or early in the morning when the occupants are sleeping.
- The number one cause of home fires is cooking.
- The major causes of home fire deaths are smoking materials, heating, arson, and children playing with matches and lighters.

<http://www.hrredcross.org/>



October is National Fire Awareness Month

Take the precautionary steps **now**, so you'll be ready **then**...



Are you Red Cross ready?

October is Fire Safety Month and the Red Cross encourages the people to take steps to lessen the risk of a fire in their home.

Approximately 95 percent of American Red Cross relief in Hampton Roads this past year was house fire related.

During a house fire, working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can be the difference between life and death.

The Evacuation Plan...

Fire escape plans should include at least two escape routes from every room in the home and a convenient meeting place at a safe distance.

Never use elevators in a fire.

Know at least two ways out of the building.

Practice the escape plan at least twice a year and revise as necessary.

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Kitchen Caution

- Always ensure the heat is off if you leave the kitchen.
- Wear short or close fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Keep a pot lid close by, use the lid to smother a pan fire.
- Clean stoves and toasters regularly to avoid grease and crumb buildup.
- Use potholders, not towels, to handle hot pans and dishes.
- Don't use the oven to heat your home.

Heating Hazards

- Keep everything at least one foot from any heat source.
- Unplug electrical appliances and heaters when not using them.
- Don't leave portable heaters on in empty room or go to sleep while they are on.
- Make sure curtains hang well way from heat sources.

At Bed Time

- Keep your robe, slippers, eyeglasses, and house keys near the bed.
- Check to be sure that any space heaters are turned off and unplugged.
- Close your bedroom door while sleeping.

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...so you will be ready **then**.



Americans over the age of 65 have a fire death rate nearly twice the national average. For those over 75, this jumps to three times the national average. Whether living independently or in a care facility, there are steps seniors can take to remain safe from fire.

Preparation Ahead of Time

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Check smoke alarms monthly.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors at least once a year.
- Plan your escape routes (two from every room, if possible) in case a fire does strike
- Never use elevators in a fire.

Calling 9-1-1

- ⇒ Call 911 from a safe location for any fire, medical or police emergency.
- ⇒ Stay on the phone until the 911 operator tells you it's OK to hang up.

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Fire Safety



Cooking is **Fun**,
but always **tell**
Mom or Dad to
Wear Clothes
with **short sleeves**
and to Have A Lid
Ready to **Cover**
Your Pots!!!



Hi kids !

My name is **Sparky**... **House fires** are common and very dangerous. **Read** these tips and **share** them with your **family** so you will be **ready** in case one happens to **you!**



- Only cook under the **permission** or **supervision** of your mom or dad.
- **Never** play with **electrical cords** or electrical sockets. Ask an adult for help plugging in equipment.
- **Stay away** from **radiators** and **Heaters**—these are **not** toys!
- **Turn off** lights, stereos, TVs, and other electrical equipment when you are **finished** using them. But when necessary, **ask an adult** turn it off a room heater.
- **Never touch** matches, lighters, or candles without an **adult's supervision**.
- **Do not** stand too close to a **fireplace**, wood stove or other types of **heaters**, clothes and hair easily catch **fire!**



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