# 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.

## Smoke Alarms...

Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home.

Check them monthly.

Change the batteries in your smoke detectors at least once a year.

For extra safety, install smoke alarms inside bedrooms.

Install the alarms on the ceiling, or 6-8 inches from the ceiling on the wall.

Replace every 10 years.

Your landlord is required by law (RCW 48.48.140) to provide you with a working smoke alarm at the time you move in. You are then required to maintain the alarm in working order during your lease.

Test your detectors monthly by pushing the button on the detector and making sure it beeps loudly.

Replace batteries at least once a year.

Remove cobwebs and dust from the detectors with a vacuum.

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement.

For extra safety, install smoke alarms inside bedrooms.

## 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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# Why Should I Know About House Fires?

#### **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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# October is National Fire Awareness Month

Take the precautionary steps **now**....



...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.
- $\Rightarrow$  Stay on the phone until the 911 operator tells you it's OK to hang up.

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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!!!





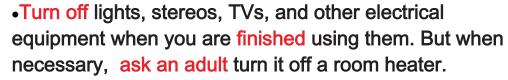
Hi kids !

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!



- •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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