Startling Statistics

- The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) estimates that property loss resulting from fires is about $8.6 billion annually.
- It is estimated that 90% of fire related deaths among children under the age of 5 occur in homes without a functioning smoke detector. Also, house fires are the number one cause of accidental death for children under 5 years of age.
- According to the USFA, nearly 5,000 Americans die in fires each year.

Don't become a statistic! Protect your memories and the ones you love.

Test your smoke detectors once a month and never remove working smoke detector batteries. Also, be sure to have a fire escape plan and practice it with the entire family. Everyone needs to know 2 ways out of every room and where to meet outside.

And remember, once you're out—STAY OUT!

Fire prevention begins at home

RULES FOR FIRE SAFETY

- Test smoke detectors once a month.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Never turn in false alarms.
- Never store gasoline inside the house.
- Plan a home fire exit drill.
- Check electrical cords for frayed wires.
- Always close your bedroom doors at night.
- Remember never go back into your home if it is on fire!

This brochure was written to bring you the answers to your fire safety questions. After reading it and teaching your family and friends fire safety, you can really feel safe in your home.

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PREVENT FIRES BEFORE THEY START

PROTECT YOUR MEMORIES

Test your smoke detectors each month!

Install a smoke detector on every level of your home and one in each sleeping area. Working smoke detectors will provide you with an early warning in case of fire. The few minutes of early warning may be the difference between life and death.
Remember to check each detector at least once a month and replace batteries every year.

Plan & practice a fire exit drill!

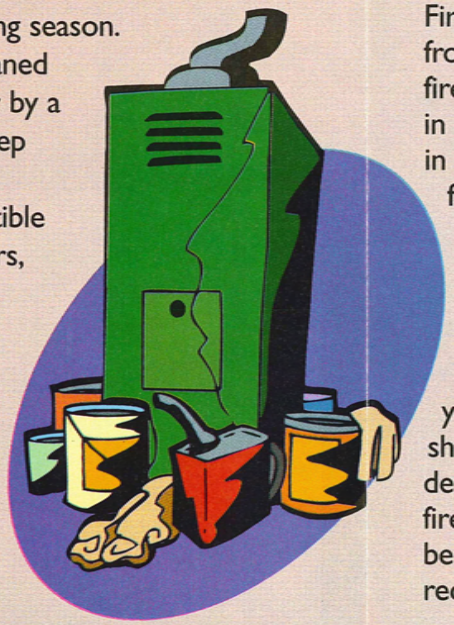
Know two ways out of each room, especially bedrooms, since most fire deaths occur at night while you are sleeping. Make an escape plan and be sure each member of your family is familiar with it. After your plan is complete, practice. Have a designated meeting area so you know if everyone is out. Once you are out do not go back in!

Fire safety in the kitchen!

The majority of burns and home fires start in the kitchen. Be sure pan handles on the stove are turned in so they will not be bumped or touched by small children. Do not wear loose clothing when cooking. If a fire starts in a pan, simply smother it with a lid. Do not pour water on a grease fire. Have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen that is rated for all types of fires. Never leave your cooking unattended; fires start and spread quickly. Keep your cooking areas clean and grease-free.

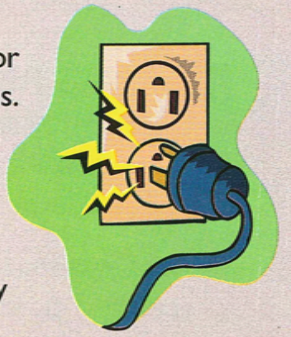
Heating equipment

Regular maintenance of your heating equipment will insure you of comfort and safety during the heating season. Have your furnace cleaned and serviced each year by a qualified technician. Keep space heaters at a safe distance from combustible materials such as papers, curtains, bedding, clothing, etc. Follow your manufacturer's instructions. Use only proper fuel in each heating appliance. Improper use of heating equipment is dangerous.



Electrical fire safety

Electricity is another dangerous fire hazard. Check these areas for hazards that could start a fire in your home. Check all electrical cords for fraying or loose connections. Replace any damaged cords immediately before using them. Do not overload outlets or extension cords. Electrical wires can get very hot and start a fire. If your circuit breaker trips or your fuse blows, find out why it happened so you can repair the problem. Always replace a blown fuse with one of the same size. Protect young children from electrical shock by placing plastic outlet covers in the receptacles that are not in use.



Fire extinguishers

Stop small fires before they get big!
Fire extinguishers can help prevent a small fire from becoming a big fire. Keep an approved fire extinguisher on hand and easily accessible in case of a small fire. A fire extinguisher kept in the kitchen, garage or basement and near a fireplace or wood stove, will allow you to put out a fire soon after it starts. If a fire starts in your home, you can try to put it out with your extinguisher, however you or someone else should still call the fire department to be safe. All fire extinguishers should be checked each year and recharged if necessary.