

ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME*

Common Causes of Household Fires

- Christmas tree
- Open flames/candles left unattended
- Smoking Combustible/Flammable material stored near water heaters
- Heating appliances (i.e. space heaters)
- Cooking-related
- Electrical



Basic Fire Safety Rules

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside every sleeping area.
- Install carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each separate sleeping area.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, away from children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Use flashlights when the power is out, not candles.
- Make sure your house number is easily readable from the street, even at night.
- Make sure electrical outlets have cover plates and no exposed wirings.
- Avoid overloading outlets or extension cords.
- Stay in kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. Stay in the home while simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food. Never pour water on a grease fire.
- Keep pets off cooking surfaces and countertops.
- Keep the stove area clean and clear of things that can catch fire, such as potholders, towels, curtains, bags, etc.
- Consider having one or more "A-B-C" rated fire extinguishers in your home.

Help your Child Survive A Fire

- Replace batteries in smoke alarms at least once a year. Immediately install a new battery if an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low.
- Ensure all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home, and where to meet outside.
- Practice your fire escape plan at least twice a year and at different times of the day. Practice waking up to smoke alarms, low crawling and meeting outside.
- Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.
- Emphasize "get out, stay out". Only professional firefighters should enter a building that is on fire – even if other family members, pets or prized possessions are inside.
- Teach household members to STOP, DROP and ROLL if their clothes should catch on fire.

Fire Extinguisher Safety

- Get training from the fire department, fire extinguisher manufacturer, or other qualified person.
- Install extinguishers high on the wall, near an exit and away from heat sources.
- Before you begin to fight a fire with a fire extinguisher, be sure that:
 - Everyone has left or is leaving the home
 - The fire department has been called
 - The fire is small and not spreading
 - Your back is to an exit you can quickly use
 - There is not much smoke in the room
- Remember the word PASS when using a fire extinguisher
 - P – Pull the pin.
 - A – Aim the hose at the base of the fire.
 - S – Squeeze the handle
 - S – Sweep from side to side.

Provided by the ASA – Houston Chapter Safety Committee