

TFD Home Safety Page

HOME SAFETY TIPS:

Install and Maintain Smoke Detectors:

The killer in a house fire is smoke. Carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and many other deadly gases are all normal by-products of a fire in your home. Smoke detectors warn you of the deadly smoke and fire in time to let you escape. Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and outside of each sleeping area. Follow the manufacturer's directions and test the batteries once a week. Replace the batteries twice a year, once each time the time changes. (Daylight savings and Standard time) Always remember your smoke detector batteries. Smoke detectors save lives.

Space Heaters Need Space:

Keep portable space heaters at least three feet from paper, curtains, furniture, clothing, bedding or anything else that can burn. Never leave space heaters on when you leave home or go to bed, keep children and pets well away from them. Watch your floor and wall furnaces in your older homes, ensure they are venting properly. Carbon monoxide can be a silent killer from an improperly venting furnace or hot water heater. Check the vents on the roof; make sure they are free and clear of obstructions (bird's nests, etc.). Make sure there is a hat on the vent to keep rain out; water in the fire box in the furnace eventually will compromise the fire box integrity and cause a fire.

Be Careful Cooking:

Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and don't leave cooking unattended. Keep your pot's handles turned inward so children won't knock or pull them over the edge of the stove. If grease catches on fire, carefully slide the lid over the pan to smother the flames, and then turn the burner off.

Cool a Burn:

If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound in cool water for 10 to 15 minutes to ease the pain. Do not use butter on a burn, as this could prolong the heat and further damage the skin. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately.

Use Electricity Safely:

If an appliance smokes or begins to smell unusual, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Check all your electrical cords and extension cords for proper routing and cracks or frays in the insulation, replace as necessary. Use surge protector strips. Don't overload extension cords. Remember fuses and circuit breakers protect your home from fire; don't tamper with the fuse box or fuses of an improper size.

Plan and Practice Your Escape:

If a fire breaks out in your home, you must get out fast. With your family, plan two ways out of every room. Choose a meeting place outside where everyone should gather. Once you're out, stay out. Don't go back inside. Have the whole family practice the escape plan at least twice a year.

Crawl Low Under Smoke:

Your best and coolest air is near the floor in your home when it is on fire. If you encounter smoke during your escape, use your alternate way out.

Keep Your Bedroom Door Closed:

Any closed door in your home (whether you're home or not) provides a fire stop. Even a home with heavy fire damage will have limited or no damage if the door was closed, I've seen this first hand. Remember, the real killer in a house fire is the smoke, a closed door offers protection to you from the smoke too.

Keep a Fire Extinguisher at Home and Learn How to Use it:

Fire extinguishers are cheap insurance. Be sure to get an extinguisher rated for Class A, B & C fires to cover all bases. Class A fires are wood, paper and cloth. Class B fires are oil, grease, diesel and gasoline. Class C fires are electrical fires. A house fire can go from a small controllable flame to a fully involved fire in 5 minutes or less. A timely dose from an extinguisher could make all the difference. Keep an extinguisher in your kitchen, basement, garage and automobile. Check them monthly.

Make Sure Your Address is Visible:

We can't help you if we can't find you. Make sure the number on your house is visible and in a well lit area that can be seen at night.

Know Your Emergency Number (9-1-1):

911 should get you help nearly anywhere in the nation now; the City of Cleveland is no exception. Sometimes when making a 911 call from a cellular phone, your call may be received in another county because of the tower arrangements. Know a backup plan when making an emergency call from a cellular phone.

Have Your Chimney Swept:

Creosote builds up in your chimney through normal use. Creosote is highly combustible and produces a tremendous amount of heat when burning. Chimney fires are very common; have your chimney checked once a year.