

Fire safety tips

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 25,000 are injured. An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire. It's not a question of luck. It's a matter of planning ahead.

Fire prevention is something very important to review when you move into your new place. It is always a good idea to have a fire extinguisher in the unit. Test all smoke alarms monthly to ensure they work properly. Make sure that everyone understands the escape plan and recognizes the sound of the smoke alarm.

CANDLE SAFETY

- Over the last decade, candle fires have almost tripled from the 5,460 reported in 1990
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't flip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them

COOKING SAFETY

- Cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Most cooking fires start with the ignition of common household items (e.g., food or grease, cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains, etc.)
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.
- If a grease pan fire occurs use the lid, if you can safely do so to put out the fire or **use baking soda (NOT baking powder, flour, or starch)**
- Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

- After purchasing an alarm, call your local fire department's non-emergency telephone number to find out what number to call if the CO (carbon monoxide) alarm sounds. Post that number by the phone.
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms.
- NEVER use the oven to heat your home
- Use BBQ grills, which can produce CO, outside only, not in the home or garage. When camping, remember to use battery-powered heaters and flashlights in tents, trailers, and motor homes.

GRILLING

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches

HOME HEATING

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn and turn them off every time you leave a room or go to bed
 - When buying a heater, choose devices with automatic shut-off features
- For more Fire Safety Tips or Fire Prevention visit: <http://www.NFPA.org>