

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, in 2023 there were 344,600 residential fires nationwide. Of those fires, there were 2,890 deaths, 10,400 injuries and a loss of more than 11 billion.

As a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, I feel strongly that fire safety education is important for all families. Children, of course, are particularly vulnerable to fire and need to be instructed in proper fire safety and prevention techniques. This brochure is intended to help you provide this instruction and to be sure the entire family is using good fire safety practices in the home. While firefighters and schools often provide educational programs, it is important that parents take the initiative to discuss fire safety with their children.

The information contained in this brochure comes largely from material compiled by the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Fire Administration, as well as other fire safety and prevention publications.

Please take the time to review it, go over it with your children and, most important, use the recommended fire safety practices in your home. Together, we can help save lives and property.

MAKE SURE SMOKE DETECTORS ARE WORKING

The NFPA says that every home should be equipped with properly functioning smoke detectors. To be sure that your smoke detector is in tip-top shape, you should carry out the following steps:

- **Test the detector every month.**
- **Replace batteries once a year.**
- **Replace the detector if over 10 years old.**
- **Don't be a "battery bandit".**
- **Never borrow the batteries from a smoke detector.**
- **Never paint a smoke detector.**
- **Clean detectors with a vacuum cleaner—without removing the cover.**
- **Dust and cobwebs can reduce sensitivity to smoke.**



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FIRE 
**A FAMILY GUIDE to
SAFETY**

IF THERE IS A FIRE

TEST DOORS BEFORE YOU OPEN THEM:

While kneeling or crouching at the door, reach up high and use the back of your hand to touch the door, doorknob and space between the door and frame. If any feel hot, do not open the door and use an alternate way out. If everything feels hot, brace your shoulder against the door and open carefully, ready to shut it if heat or smoke rushes in. If you must use a window to escape, and cannot open it, break it using a chair or drawer from a dresser. Then be sure to cover the window sill with a blanket or rug to protect you from broken glass.

FOR HELP CALL 911

Know what to do if your clothes catch fire

**STOP
DROP
AND
ROLL!**

**STOP
where you are – NEVER RUN**

**DROP
to the ground – Cover your face with your hands to protect face and lungs**

**ROLL
over and over to smother the flames**



FIRE SAFETY TIPS



From The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA)

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

INSTALL AND MAINTAIN SMOKE DETECTORS

- They should be installed on every level, inside bedrooms and outside of each sleeping area.

PLAN AND PRACTICE TO ESCAPE A FIRE

- Have at least two ways to get outside from each room in your home, especially bedrooms.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
- Get out right away as fast as possible and don't stop for anything.
- Stay outside until you are sure it is safe to go back.
- Have a meeting place outside prearranged, so you'll be sure everyone is out of the home.
- Never use an elevator. It might take you right to the fire.

KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH SMOKE

- If you encounter smoke, use an alternate escape route.
- If you must exit through smoke, keep low where the air is cleanest (1-2 feet above the floor) and crawl on your hands and knees to safety.
- Cover your mouth and take short breaths.



KEEP AN EYE ON SMOKERS

- Don't let anyone smoke in bed or when sleepy.
- Put water on butts before discarding.
- Before bed, or leaving home, check under and around sofa cushions for smoldering cigarettes.

GIVE PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS SPACE

- Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Keep children and pets away from the heaters.
- Always turn heaters off when leaving home or going to bed.

DON'T PLAY WITH MATCHES & LIGHTERS

- Use child-resistant lighters.
- Store matches and lighters up high where children cannot reach them – preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Teach children that matches and lighters are tools for adults, not toys for children.

BE CAREFUL WITH ELECTRICITY

- Replace cracked or frayed electrical cords.
- If an appliance smokes or smells hot, unplug it right away and have it repaired.
- Don't overload extension cords or run them under the rug.
- Don't tamper with fuse boxes or use fuses of the wrong size.

BE A CAREFUL COOK

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep cooking area clear of items that will catch fire.
- Never put foil or metal in a microwave.
- Keep pot and pan handles turned inward so they won't be knocked over. If there is a grease fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner.
- Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves to cook.



REMEMBER KIDS

- **Never, ever play with matches or a lighter.** If you find matches or a lighter, tell an adult right away.
- **Have your parents go over with you how to contact the fire company if you see a fire, and how to use the "911" emergency telephone number.**
- **Remember, firefighters are helpers and friends, trained to put out fires and save you from being burned.** They wear helmets, boots and coats, and may be wearing airtanks and breathing masks while fighting fires.
- **Always listen to a firefighter and follow all of his or her directions.**

