

Home Fire Safety

- Install an early fire/smoke detection system and an approved home alarm system. A smoke detector should be placed as close as possible to bedrooms.
- Close the doors to all bedrooms when you go to bed at night. It can keep fire out long enough to allow escape through windows.
- Extension cords should not be overloaded. Check cords often for fraying and avoid running them under rugs. An extension cord used to connect an appliance should always be the proper size and capacity for the appliance.
- Check your home's cooling and heating systems to make sure they are clean and in good working order.
- Store flammable liquids in approved containers, outside the home if possible. Never use gasoline, benzene, naphtha, and similar liquids indoors. Their fumes will readily ignite from any kind of spark. Rags soaked with cleaning fluids or turpentine sometimes catch fire by themselves (this is called spontaneous combustion) and they should be safely discarded after use. Also, never smoke while handling flammable liquids.



- When using any type of room or area heating device be sure there is proper ventilation to the outside. Also make sure there is adequate space around the heater and that the floor and nearby walls are properly insulated. Use only the fuel designated for your unit: don't substitute. Properly store ashes in a metal container outside and away from buildings.
- Develop and practice an emergency escape plan, which gives everyone two ways out of the house: a normal exit, and an alternate one.
- Agree on a way that everyone can sound the alarm.
- **Holding a family fire drill is a must. Try your escape plan with the whole family until it works well, and keep practicing it frequently.**
- Don't smoke when you are lying down, or when your judgement is impaired by fatigue, medication, or alcohol.