

Emergency Preparedness Pointer

November 2016

PREVENT HOME FIRES

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the leading causes of home fires are cooking and home heating. Winter months are the peak time of year for home fires. Now is the best time to identify and remove all fire hazards inside your home. There are several steps you can take to prevent a home fire. Practicing fire safety in your home will give you the best chance at preventing a home fire and knowing what to do in the event you experience one.



INSTALL AND CHECK FIRE ALARMS

Be sure to install smoke detectors on every level as well as inside bedrooms. Teach your children what to do when they hear a smoke alarm. Do not neglect regular maintenance on your smoke alarms. Check them once a month to make sure they are working properly, and replace the batteries at least once a year. If your alarm starts to chirp, replace the batteries immediately. Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years. Never disable smoke or carbon monoxide alarms. Ensure that everyone in your home knows at least two ways to escape from every room your home. At least twice a year have every household member practice escaping from your home. Most importantly, make sure everyone knows how and when to call 9-1-1.

PREVENT COOKING HAZARDS

During the winter months, cooking becomes the leading cause of all home fires in the U.S. You should always stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food. Even when leaving the kitchen for a brief period of time, make sure to turn off the stove before exiting the room. Do not leave your home if you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food. Check on your food regularly and be sure to set a timer. Train your pets to stay off of cooking appliances and countertops to prevent things from being knocked onto burners. Keep flammable materials at least 3 feet away from cooking surfaces.

KEEP A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN YOUR HOME

Fire extinguishers can be valuable tools. Keep at least one Class A/B/C fire extinguisher on every level of your home and learn how to properly use it. If a fire is the size of a wastepaper basket or smaller, it may be safe to put it out with a fire extinguisher. Never approach a fire unless it is certain there is a clear exit away from the fire. Always have a buddy watch the surroundings when putting out a fire with an extinguisher. Conditions can change rapidly making it important to have another person watching the area in case evacuation is needed. For additional information about fire preparedness, visit our website:

<https://adacounty.id.gov/acem/How-to-Prepare-Resources/Fire>

