

Fire Safety

Protect yourself, your family
and your neighbors.



DELTA FIRE AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY

Fire Kills

A fire can be fast and deadly. Over 19,000* people were killed or injured in home fires in 2012. You can avoid being a statistic of fire ... if you practice fire safety and emergency evacuation procedures.

In 2012, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 480,000 structure fires. These fires resulted in an estimated \$9,776,000,000 in direct property loss.

There was a civilian fire death every 3 hours and 4 minutes and a civilian fire injury every 32 minutes in 2012. Home fires caused 2,380, or 83%, of the civilian fire deaths.*

* Source: National Fire Protection Association, Fire Analysis and Research Division: *FIRE LOSS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING 2012.*



What You Should Know

Fire can be a silent killer. Although the flames and heat of a fire are what strike fear in most people, the thick smoke and poisonous gases released are just as deadly.

- ▶ Thick smoke will disorient and confuse you -even in your own home. Know how to escape your home as if you were blindfolded.
- ▶ The smell of smoke will not awaken you. The poisonous gases actually put you into a deeper sleep.
- ▶ A fire's heat is intense. You do not have to be near its flames to be injured. A fire can reach temperatures of 600 degrees -four times the maximum your body can endure.
- ▶ Time is precious. Every second must be used to evacuate.

Common Causes of Fires

- ▶ Cooking left unattended
- ▶ Cigarettes left burning near a bed or sofa
- ▶ Overloaded electrical outlets
- ▶ Children playing with matches or lighters

What To Do In A Fire

- ▶ Once you realize there is a fire, get down on the floor. Always stay as close to the floor as possible -the air is cleaner and cooler. Stay on your hands and knees to avoid the heat and smoke.
- ▶ Crawl to the door and touch it to feel the temperature. If it is cool, open it a bit to check for smoke. If there is none, leave by your escape route. As you escape, close all doors behind you. This can delay the fire spreading.
- ▶ Do not open the door if it is hot. This will let in the smoke and gas. Keep the door shut and look for another escape route. Escape through a window if you can.
- ▶ If you cannot leave the room or apartment, seal the cracks around the door with wet towels or blankets and try to let fresh air in by opening a window. As a last resort, break the window. Call the Fire Department if you can and tell them exactly where you are. Shout for help and wave a bright cloth, towel or sheet.
- ▶ If your clothes catch fire, do not panic. **STOP** where you are, **DROP** to the ground and **ROLL** to put out the flames.

Practice Fire Safety

- ▶ Make sure your family has a fire escape plan. Everyone should know two escape routes from each room. Determine a place outside where you can meet to be sure everyone has escaped.
- ▶ Make sure everyone knows how to dial the emergency fire number. Many cities have 9-1-1 emergency numbers. However, not all do. Post the emergency fire number where it can be easily seen and make sure everyone, especially children, memorize it as well as your home address. This will greatly reduce the time it takes for the fire department to respond to your call.
- ▶ Check your smoke detectors. Since you cannot smell the smoke when sleeping, a smoke detector can save your life. Make sure your home has one near each sleeping area and change the batteries often.
- ▶ Sleep with your bedroom door closed. Closed doors delay the fire and give you time to escape. It is also a good idea to keep a flashlight near your bed so you can find your way out of your home.



Your Fire Safety Checklist

Prevention and planning is the key to protecting your family and neighbors. Use this checklist as a guide to identify possible fire safety problems in your apartment or building. If you check NO to any question the potential hazard should be corrected to reduce your risk and increase your preparedness for fire.

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- ☐ ☐ Do you have at least one operable smoke alarm?
- ☐ ☐ Do you have at least one operable carbon monoxide alarm?
- ☐ ☐ Are all electrical cords in good condition? (not frayed or cracked)
- ☐ ☐ Are all electrical cords in the open, not run under rugs or through doorways?
- ☐ ☐ Is your home free from storage of flammable products such as gasoline or propane?
- ☐ ☐ Are space heaters placed at least three feet from combustibles?
- ☐ ☐ Are space heaters plugged directly into wall sockets and not into extension cords?
- ☐ ☐ Is your entrance door fireproof and self-closing?
- ☐ ☐ Is your fire escape window clear and unobstructed?
- ☐ ☐ Can all windows be opened easily from the inside?
- ☐ ☐ Are building stairways free of storage and rubbish?
- ☐ ☐ Are stairway fire doors fireproof and self-closing?
- ☐ ☐ Are stairway fire doors kept closed?
- ☐ ☐ Are exit lights in the stairway in good working order?
- ☐ ☐ Do you have operable flashlights handy?
- ☐ ☐ Are your dryer vents clean and free of lint buildup?
- ☐ ☐ Do you have a fire escape plan?
- ☐ ☐ Do you have fire insurance?