

Home Fires

In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames.

Learn About Fires

- **Fire is FAST!** In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.
- **Fire is HOT!** Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.
- **Fire is DARK!** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.
- **Fire is DEADLY!** Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio.

Before a Fire

Create and Practice a Fire Escape Plan

Smoke Alarms

A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

- Install both ionization AND photoelectric smoke alarms, OR dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
- Test batteries monthly.
- Replace batteries in battery-powered and hard-wired smoke alarms at least once a year (except non-replaceable 10-year lithium batteries).
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, both inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- Replace the entire smoke alarm unit every 8-10 years or according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Never disable a smoke alarm while cooking – it can be a deadly mistake.

- **Top 5 causes of house fires**

1. Cooking-Related Fires

Cooking fires are among the most common types of house fires, causing around [48 percent](#) of all residential fires. They are very often caused by greases that become overheated on a stove or in an oven. Grease is highly flammable when it gets hot enough (about 600 degrees Fahrenheit, on average) and when it reaches that point, it can combust spontaneously, even without direct flame contact. Once grease is ignited, it is very difficult to smother the flames.

2. Heating Appliances

Home space heaters and baseboard heaters can cause fire when fabrics and other combustibles are left too close to them. Heating appliances of various types are the second leading cause of residential fires, responsible for approximately 15 percent of all home fires.

3. Electrical Fires

Various types of electrical faults in home wiring cause about 51,000 fires each year, accounting for nearly 500 deaths, 1,400 injuries, and about \$1.3 billion in property damage. Most typically, electric fires occur because of short circuits causing arcing (sparking) that ignites building materials, or from circuits that are overloaded with current, causing wires to overheat. Electrical problems account for about 10 percent of all residential fires, but this type of fire is often deadly, accounting for almost 19 percent of deaths due to home fire.

4. Smoking

Smoking is hazardous to your health in many ways—including the potential for igniting fires from cigarette butts dropped on carpeting, furniture, or other flammable materials. While cigarettes and other smoking materials account for only about 5 percent of home fires, these are particularly deadly fires, responsible for about 23 percent of all fire deaths—the single most common cause. This is likely because these fires often ignite when a resident falls asleep.

5. Candles

The [National Fire Protection Association](#) estimates that candles cause an average of 8,200 house fires, 15,600 house fires, 80 deaths, and 770 injuries each year in the U.S. The matches and lighters used to light candles are equally dangerous if left in a place where children can reach them. Keep matches and lighters locked in a secure place if you have kids, and never leave a candle burning in a room that is unattended.

Below are links to two things all homes should have and make sure that you store them away from the stove in the kitchen.

Fire Blankets

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=fire+blanket+kitchen&crid=36RKPT30USEN&srefix=fire+bla%2Caps%2C198&ref=nb_sb_ss_i_3_8

Fire Extinguishers

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=fire+extinguisher&crid=1ENIIWOGX8VLD&srefix=fire+%2Caps%2C207&ref=nb_sb_ss_i_3_5

<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>

<http://www.strikefirstusa.com/2016/07/essential-places-keep-fire-extinguisher-home>

If anybody needs any help and or more information just let me know.

We will have an Emergency Preparedness meeting Saturday October 12 after the HOA board meeting.