



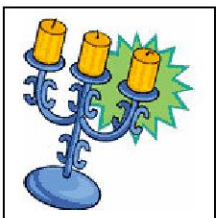
PRESENTS

Fire Safety Guidelines

Many ordinary, every day household items can be fire hazards. Think about these statistics for a minute before reading any further:

- ☞ Cooking fires are the **#1** cause of home fires and injuries, resulting in over **300 deaths, 400 injuries** and over **\$5.0 million** in property damages.
- ☞ **Hundreds more deaths** and **thousands more injuries** are caused by **children playing** with matches, lighters, candles, cigarettes and other dangerous materials.
- ☞ Clothes dryers & Washing machines lead to over **15,350 fires** a year with over **433 injuries**, almost **16 deaths** and over **\$201 million** in property damage.
- ☞ Candles are responsible for up to **15,600** residential fires with almost **150 deaths, 1270 injuries** and **\$593 million** in property loss, mostly due to candles being left unattended.

Now look around your home. Are any of these risk factors present? While we aren't trying to scare you, we do want you to be aware of potential fire hazards in your home. Now that you are, here are some simple steps to take to reduce those risks and have a safer home.

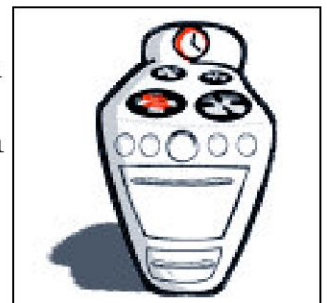


CANDLES

- ☞ Extinguish all lit items when you leave a room, the home, or go to bed
- ☞ Keep away from flammable items, including clothing, curtains, books, papers, decorations or plants
- ☞ Don't put candles in windows where a breeze can ignite objects near the candle
- ☞ Do not place lit items low where they can be knocked over by children or pets
- ☞ Store matches, lighters, incense and candles high up where children can't reach
- ☞ Use only approved candle holders and incense stands, never plates or ashtrays
- ☞ Keep wicks trimmed and wax free of matches or old wick clippings.
- ☞ Do not play with candles with small children, teach them that they are hot and can burn them

COOKING SAFETY

- ☞ Create a three foot kid free zone around your stove
- ☞ Never leave anything on the stove or in the microwave unattended
- ☞ Keep cooking areas clean and free of combustible materials such as towels, grocery bags, curtains, etc.
- ☞ Keep pot handles turned inward to prevent bumping
- ☞ Always keep a pot holder, oven mitt and lid handy
- ☞ For small grease fires in pans, smother with a lid
- ☞ Never pour water on a grease fire
- ☞ Never discharge a fire extinguisher into a pan
- ☞ When in doubt, get out of the house and call your local fire department



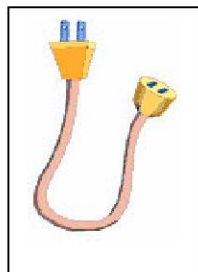
CLOTHES DRYERS

- ☞ Do not run your dryer without a lint filter; clean the filter between every use, remove lint from around the drum
- ☞ Make sure your dryer is plugged into an outlet that can handle its electrical needs
- ☞ Turn off your dryer when you leave the home – do not let it run while you are gone
- ☞ Keep your dryer area clean and free of combustible materials (boxes, clothes, garbage, old lint, etc.)
- ☞ Have your dryer installed by a professional and have gas powered dryers regularly inspected to ensure that the gas lines and connections are correct



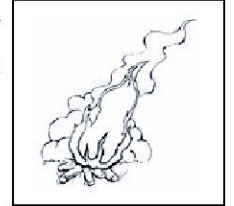
EXTENSION CORDS/ ELECTRICAL

- ☞ Extension cords are for temporary use, not long term. Consider a surge protector for prolonged needs
- ☞ Make sure all cords are in good condition and not frayed or cut
- ☞ Do not overload extension cords. Read the ratings label to see specifications.
- ☞ Do not place cords where they can be rubbed by furniture or doors
- ☞ Always check the wattage in light bulbs to make sure you are using the correct bulbs in light fixtures to prevent overheating
- ☞ Never use a larger size fuse or circuit breakers, they can be a significant fire hazard
- ☞ Check outlets and light switches for heat; if they are unusually hot, you may have a problem with your wiring, call a licensed electrician to check as soon as possible



CAMPING/FIREWORKS

- ☞ Set up your campfire downwind from tents, and far enough away to prevent sparks from igniting combustibles
- ☞ Use tents that are flame retardant
- ☞ Do not use liquid filled lanterns or heaters inside the tent – battery powered lights are best
- ☞ Store fire starters away from tents and only use dry kindling for fires
- ☞ ALWAYS extinguish fires when leaving the area or going to bed
- ☞ Stay at least 500 feet away From professional firework Displays
- ☞ Leave any area where Amateurs are using illegal Fireworks
- ☞ If you find fireworks, contact authorities for proper removal/disposal
- ☞ Don't let small children play with firecrackers or sparklers
- ☞ Be aware that fireworks can cause burns, lacerations, amputations and blindness



CHILDREN



- ☞ Teach your children the dangers of playing with lighters and matches and to tell an adult if they find matches or lighters or if they see another child playing with fire
- ☞ NEVER play with fire in front of children; they may think it's a game
- ☞ Store lighters, matches and other smoking materials up high away from children, preferably in a locked cupboard
- ☞ Be aware that children who start fires may be reaching out, they may be in a crisis situation. If you suspect that a child you know may be starting fires, call your local fire department, school or counseling agency to get help for the child as soon as possible.