

The United States has the best buildings and the best trained and equipped fire service in the world but an unacceptable number of fire deaths

year, after year, after year...

Fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined ... over 50 times more

Fire causes more than \$11 billion in property loss each year

There are almost 400,000 home fires in the U.S. each year

Almost 4,000 people die in fire every year. Another 27,000 are injured

Someone is killed by fire every two hours

Human error is the most significant factor in the cause and spread of fire

Unlike natural disasters, almost all fire deaths and losses can be prevented

The information within this brochure will help you prevent potential losses from fire

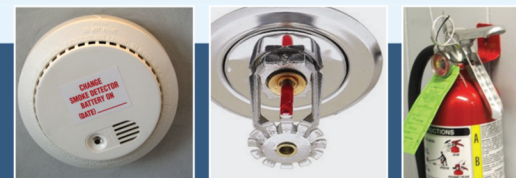


OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION & CONTROL

One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 500
Albany, NY 12210-2833
Phone: 518-474-6746
Fax: 518-474-3240
E-mail: fire@dhses.ny.gov
Website: www.dhses.ny.gov



home fire safety tips



FIRE SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Fire is Hot, Fast, Dark, and produces Deadly Smoke and Gases

Within a couple of minutes, the temperature in a room with a fire can reach well over 1000 degrees. You cannot survive in the heat. A single breath of that super heat air will be fatal. Fire doubles in volume every 30-60 seconds. In just a couple of minutes, an entire room, or even multiple rooms, can be fully involved with fire. Can you beat it to the door? Fire is dark. You will be unable to see. Practice your escape blindfolded or in some other way without seeing. Smoke kills. Furniture, paints, carpeting, and many other materials give off deadly toxic gases when they burn. Most people who die in fire die from breathing the poison smoke.

You choose if you will be fire safe. By following some simple fire safety practices, you can help keep yourself and your family from being among the thousands who die in fires each year.

Plan Ahead - Get Out Alive

If you get caught in a fire situation, survival is your first priority.

- Know two ways out of every room
- Feel the door
 - *If the door is hot, don't open it*
 - *Use your second way out, or go to a window and call for help*
 - *If the door is cool, stay low and open it slowly*
 - *Check for smoke and fire before going out*
- Get out before phoning for help. Call 911, or the appropriate emergency number, from a safe place outside of the building
- If a fire alarm is available, pull the alarm on the way out
- Close the door behind you. This helps keep the fire from spreading and you may protect possessions from fire and smoke damage

Get Low and Go

- DON'T SEARCH FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER YOUR THINGS
 - *Knock on doors as you leave*
 - *Yell "fire" as you leave*
 - *You have no time to do anything but escape*
- CRAWL LOW TO THE FLOOR
 - *Thick smoke can make it impossible to see*
 - *Toxic chemicals in the smoke can become deadly in seconds*
 - *Heat and smoke rise—the freshest, safest air is close to the floor*
- IF YOU CAN'T GET OUT, GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION
 - *Close and seal your door—try to keep the smoke out*
 - *Hang or wave something like a sheet from the window to get attention*
 - *Yell out the window*

Your choices determine if you will die in a fire

Fires can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions:

- TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE PREVENTION
 - *Keep from overloading electrical outlets*
 - *Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from things that can burn*
 - *Put out candles and incense when unattended*
 - *Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly*
 - *Don't smoke while tired or impaired*
 - *Keep grills away from buildings*
 - *Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children*

Protect yourself from becoming trapped in a fire

- HAVE WORKING SMOKE ALARMS
 - *Test smoke alarms monthly*
 - *Install new batteries twice each year -"Change your clock-Change your batteries"*
 - *Never remove batteries to use for any other purpose*
- PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES
 - *Know where all exits are located in the building you are in*
 - *Know two ways out of every room*
 - *Make a home escape plan identifying two ways out of each room*
 - *Practice your plan—most fires occur at night when it is dark and hard to see*
 - *Designate a safe meeting place outside so that everyone can assemble and be accounted for*
- TAKE ALL FIRE ALARMS SERIOUSLY
 - *Never ignore a fire alarm*
 - *Do not wait to see fire or smoke*
 - *Do not try to get your things*
 - *Respond to every alarm as a real fire*



Install Residential Fire Sprinklers

Your live-in-always-on-duty firefighter

Every year nearly 4,000 people die in fires, eight out of 10 of those fires occur in someone's home. Fire sprinklers save lives and reduce property damage because:

- Sprinklers buy critical time to escape
- 90% of fires are contained by a single sprinkler head
- Home fire sprinklers use only a fraction of the water used by the fire department when they arrive