

FIRE



FACTS

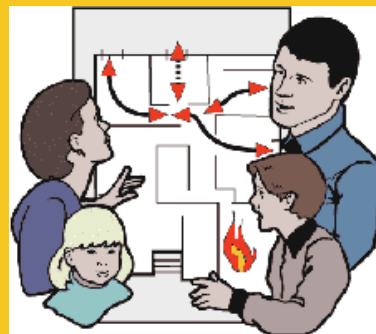
The theme for Fire Prevention Month 2007 is home fire escape planning and practice.

Only 23% of households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

Make your home fire escape plan

Draw a simple floor plan of your home showing all exits, including windows. Sit down with everyone in your home, talk about the two best ways to get out of each room, and mark those exits on your plan. Make sure all exits are clear. If you have security bars, make sure they have quick-release devices on the inside.

Decide on a safe meeting place outside the home where everyone will gather after they have escaped a fire. Make sure everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarm and when it sounds to get out and stay out.



Now practice it

Send everyone to his or her bedroom and sound the smoke alarm. Go directly to your meeting place and make sure everyone has escaped. Close off some exits and pretend they're blocked by smoke or flame. In a real fire, call 911 from a neighbor's or a mobile phone only after you have left the building.

In a real fire, you must move quickly, carefully, and calmly.

Residential sprinklers

Consider installing an automatic sprinkler system in your home. Sprinkler systems are set off by high heat, not cooking fumes, and they spray water only on the area immediately below them.



Keeping Time

In the United States, in 2005

- ◆ A fire department responded to a fire every 20 seconds.
- ◆ An outdoor fire was reported every 39 seconds
- ◆ One home fire was reported every 83 seconds.
- ◆ A structure fire was reported every 62 seconds.
- ◆ One civilian was injured in a fire every 29 minutes.
- ◆ One civilian died in a fire every 2 hours and 23 minutes.

Hillsboro Fire Department
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FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

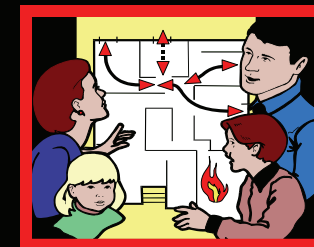


OCTOBER, 2007

U.S. Fire Facts

- ◆ The leading causes of home fires are **cooking** (which leads to the most fires and the most injuries), **smoking** (which leads to the most deaths), heating, electrical equipment, and intentionally set fires.
- ◆ In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 1.6 million fires—24% were home fires.
- ◆ In 2005, home fires killed 3,050 people,
- ◆ In 2005, 13,300 fire injuries from home fires (not including fire fighter injuries) were reported to U.S. fire departments.
- ◆ As of 2004, 96% of all homes (with telephones) have at least one smoke alarm.

PRACTICE YOUR FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



It's Fire Prevention Month — Practice Your Fire Escape Plan!

Fire Prevention Month commemorates the **Great Chicago Fire of October 8-9, 1871**. The landmark disaster raged for several days and killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 more homeless, and destroyed more than 17,000 buildings.

Each October, the Hillsboro Fire Department sponsors a fire prevention campaign. The theme for Fire Prevention Month 2007 focuses on how to plan and practice escape from your home in case of fire.

Facts about the leading causes of fires in the home



Cooking—the leading cause of home fires and injuries.

Cooking equipment is involved in more than 10,000 reported home fires each year, and most of those involve the kitchen stovetop. Most cooking fires occur because of unattended cooking.

Safety Tips

- Pay attention to your cooking. “Stand by your pan” when frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, boiling, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove’s back burners whenever possible.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove.

- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Allow food cooked in a microwave oven to cool for a minute or more before you remove it from the oven and use an oven mitt.
- Open microwaved food slowly. Hot steam escaping from the container can cause painful burns. Let food cool before eating.

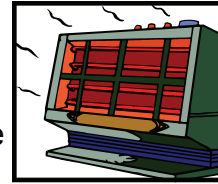
Heating Safety Tips

Home heating fires peak during months December, January, and February.

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from people and from anything that can burn, such as curtains and bedding.

Heating Tips (con’t)

- Turn space heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.



Outdoor Safety Tips

- Keep trash from collecting on your property.
- Give burn barrels and BBQs a 3 feet safety zone.
- Remove dead branches that could be used as a fuel source.
- Store flammable liquids in a locked shed or detached garage
- If your child or a child you know displays fire-starting behavior,



call Hillsboro Fire Department for help.

- Do not hesitate to report a child who starts fires to his or her parents and to authorities. Call Hillsboro Fire Department, 503-681-6166.

Candles

A candle is an open flame. It can easily ignite combustibles nearby. Candles caused 4% of the home fires in 2000-2004, 7% of the associated deaths and 12% of the associated injuries. More than half started when something that could burn was too close to the candle. An earlier study found that candles used for light caused one-third of the fatal candle fires.



Safety Tips

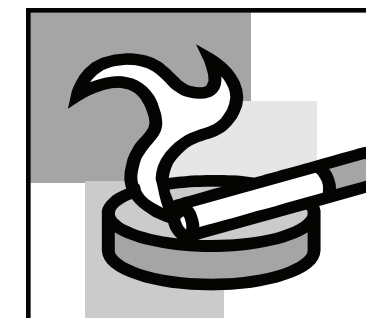
- Extinguish candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Use flashlights, not lit candles, during power outages.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot away from things that can burn, like curtains, paper and bedding.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a lit candle.

Smoking

Smoking materials (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc) are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. The most common things first ignited in home fires caused by smoking materials are mattresses, bedding, upholster furniture, and trash.

Safety Tips

- If you have smokers in your home—watch them when they smoke.
- Designate a smoking area outside your home that is free of things that can burn like decking, barkdust, etc.
- Provide smokers with deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn.
- Choose fire-safe cigarettes - It’s the law in Oregon!



Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Smoke alarms will nearly double your chances of surviving a fire; only if they work!

Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Test you smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Clean you smoke alarms with the vacuum soft brush attachment at least twice a year.
- Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.

