

Fire Safety At Work, Home, And On The Road

*Acknowledgements: National Safety Council, www.nsc.org
National Fire Protection Association, www.nfpa.org*

In 2005, there were 3675 fire-related deaths in the United States. No one is immune from the dangers of fires. A flame the size of a candle can completely engulf a 400 sq. ft. room in one minute. Consider these helpful hints regarding fire safety.

Fire Safety At Work

- Know where the emergency exits are in your building. Plan at least 2 ways to exit in the event of a fire. **DO NOT** use the elevator in the event of a fire.
- Know where the fire extinguishers are and how to use them. Incorporate the **PASS** method of use – **P**ull the trigger pin, **A**im at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the trigger, and **S**weep across the base of the fire.
- Exit the building every time the fire alarm sounds – no exceptions. If a fire starts, pull the fire alarm as you exit the building and **DIAL 911**.
- The use of space heaters is strongly discouraged. More information on this can be found at www.safety.Louisiana.edu/meetings (click on “Feb. 2002” meeting).

Fire Safety At Home

- Conduct yearly fire drills with children, teaching them to grab a towel, keep low to ground, and exit through a first floor window if necessary and appropriate.
- Smoke detectors should be in the kitchen, the hallway, and close to bedrooms. Test these and replace the batteries at every daylight savings time change. Smoke detectors are available for persons with disabilities. (Flashing light for the deaf).
- Carbon monoxide detectors are necessary for homes that are heated with natural gas, propane, or heating oil.
- Keep a 5-pound type ABC fire extinguisher in the kitchen, in the garage, near the fireplace, in your boat, etc. Check its charge when you test smoke detectors.
- Sweep fireplace chimneys at least every 3 years. Don't leave your lit fireplace unattended. Metal screens reduce the chance of embers flying out of the fireplace.
- Regularly clean the lint filter and duct in your clothes dryer.
- Never leave cooking food unattended. Heat cooking oil no higher than 350° F. and clean your stove regularly. **DO NOT** put grease fires out with water. Have oven mitts and kitchen towels readily available to smother small fires, but not too close to the range. Don't wear loose clothing when cooking.
- **DO NOT** smoke in your bed. Douse ashes before discarding them. Keep matches and lighters high and out of the children's reach.
- Store gasoline in approved containers away from any source of ignition.
- Electrical fires are common. Don't overload circuits and repair any exposed wiring in your home immediately. If your lights dim when you plug in appliances, or you are constantly tripping breakers, a problem may exist.

Fire Safety On The Road

- As you walk to your hotel room, identify at least 2 ways to exit if a fire starts.
- Pack a small flashlight and duct tape (to seal off smoke) when you travel.
- Don't talk on the cell phone while fueling your vehicle.
- Crowded events such as concerts that include pyro techniques and large-scale electricity can be dangerous. Ask the event manager to see the Fire Permit for the event, which will include occupant capacities fire watch requirements, and any special instructions.