



King County Fire District 27

Protect Your Family from Fire!
In 2009, U.S. fire departments responded to 362,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 12,650 civilian injuries and 2,565 civilian deaths.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Avoid overloading electrical circuits.
- Inspect & replace damaged electrical cords.
- Extension cords should be the correct gauge for the job, have a built in circuit breaker, and used only temporarily.
- If you have recurring problems with tripping circuit breakers, warm wall outlets or notice a burning smell from your appliances contact a qualified electrician.

HEATING FIRES

- Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.
- Turn off space heaters before you go to bed.
- Inspect and clean chimneys and heating systems annually.
- Burn only seasoned dry firewood. Wet wood causes creosote build-up which can cause a chimney fire.
- Heating fires peak in December, January and February.

CANDLE SAFETY

- Most candle fires occur during the holidays.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything flammable and use sturdy holders.
- Think about using flameless candles, they look and smell like real candles

SMOKE ALARMS

- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires by 50%.
- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Replace batteries at least once a year!

Change Your Battery when you Change your Clock



COOKING FIRES - are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

- Have a “kid-free zone” three feet around the stove and cooking areas.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep oven mitts, towels, and anything that can catch on fire away from the stove.
- If cooking oil catches on fire, turn the heat off, don’t try and move the pan, cover the pan with a metal lid, or wet cloth that has been rung out to smother the fire. Baking soda will extinguish grease fires, but only if they are small.
- **NEVER throw water on a grease fire!** It will only cause the burning oil to splash, spreading the grease fire around.
- **Keep an ABC Fire Extinguisher in the kitchen.**

HOME ESCAPE PLAN

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows.
- Know at least two ways out of each room.
- Ensure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place.
- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with your family, twice a year.
- If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, go directly outside to the meeting place, call 911 from a neighbor’s house.
- Never go back inside a burning building.

SAMPLE HOME ESCAPE PLAN

