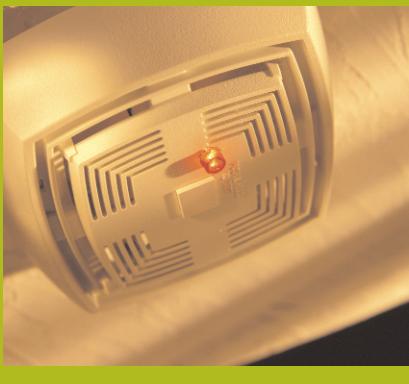




## FIRE PREVENTION



### Who's at risk?

Nearly nine out of ten fire deaths occur at home. Adults over age 65 are at greatest risk of dying in a home fire, followed by children age four and under. Home fires are more likely to occur during the winter months, especially January.

### Protect yourself, your family and your property with these prevention tips:

- Every home should be equipped with smoke detectors on every level, particularly outside of sleeping areas.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and replace the batteries twice a year, when you change your clocks.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher in your kitchen (one rated for grease fires and electrical fires), near the furnace, in the garage, or anywhere else a fire might start. And know how to use it!
- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Never smoke in bed. Make sure all smoking materials are extinguished properly before dumping ashes.
- Cooking fires are common. Avoid grease build-up in the kitchen and on appliances. Don't leave food cooking on stovetops unattended.
- Do your lights dim or flicker when extra appliances are plugged in? Your electrical system may be overtaxed: consult a certified electrician.
- Inspect wires on appliances. If you find any worn or exposed, stop using the appliance!
- Avoid chimney fires by having your chimney inspected and cleaned every year.
- Use only approved space heaters with automatic shut-off controls and have them serviced annually.
- Only use gas or charcoal grills outdoors, and be careful when handling or igniting propane or lighting fluid. Keep children out of the way.

Sources: *Injury Facts, 2004 edition*, National Safety Council  
*Fighting Fire with Foresight*, National Safety Council  
National Safety Council fact sheet

