

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

