

## Don't Get Burned... Take the Following Precautions

- Before getting in the bathtub, test the water with your elbow.
- Stay clear of anyone carrying hot things.
- Be careful around irons.
- Watch handles of pots and pans on stoves.
- Be careful removing covers from containers -- steam can cause severe burns.
- Don't play with electrical cords and wires.
- Keep anything with an electrical plug away from water.
- Keep all paper away from hot things.



Remember, in case of fire  
**Dial "911"**



## Especially for Kids 2...

- Have your parents go over with you how to contact the fire company if you see a fire, and how to use the "9 1 1" emergency telephone number.
- Remember, firefighters are helpers and friends, trained to put out fires and save you from being burned. They wear helmets, boots and coats, and may be wearing airtanks and breathing masks while fighting fires.
- Always listen to a firefighter and follow all of his or her directions.

## A Message to Parents...

Fire is dangerous. Every 45 seconds in the United States, someone's home catches fire. More than 5,000 lives are lost to fires each year, and more than 20,000 persons suffer injuries due to fire.

As a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, I feel strongly that fire safety education is important for all families. Children, of course, are particularly vulnerable to fire and need to be instructed in proper fire safety and prevention techniques. This brochure is intended to help you provide this instruction and to be sure the entire family is using good fire safety practices in the home. While firefighters and schools often provide educational programs, it is important that parents take the initiative to discuss fire safety with their children.

The information contained in this brochure comes largely from material compiled by the National Fire Protection Association, as well as other fire safety and prevention publications.

Please take the time to review it, go over it with your children and, most important, use the recommended fire safety practices in your home. Together, we can help save lives and property.

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## A Family Guide to Fire Safety



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# Some Fire Safety Tips For The Home

*The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has ten easy ways to improve fire safety in everyone's home. Check your home to see that your fire safety plans won't "go up in smoke."*

## 1. Install and maintain smoke detectors.

- They should be installed on every level and outside of each sleeping area.

## 2. Plan and practice to escape a fire.

- Have at least two ways to get outside from each room in your home, especially bedrooms.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
- Get out right away as fast as possible and don't stop for anything. Stay outside until you are sure it is safe to go back.
- Have a meeting place outside prearranged, so you'll be sure everyone is out of the home.
- Never use an elevator. It might take you right to the fire.

## 3. Know how to deal with smoke.

- If you encounter smoke, use an alternate escape route.
- If you must exit through smoke, keep low where the air is cleanest (1-2 feet above the floor) and crawl on your hands and knees to safety. Cover your mouth and take short breaths.

## 4. Keep an eye on smokers.

- Don't let anyone smoke in bed or when sleepy.
- Put water on butts before discarding.
- Before bed or leaving home check under and around sofa cushions for smoldering cigarettes.

## 5. Be a careful cook.

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keeping cooking area clear of items that will catch fire.
- Never put foil or metal in a microwave.
- Keep pot and pan handles turned inward so they won't be knocked over.
- If there is a grease fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner.
- Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves to cook.

## 6. Give portable and space heaters the space they need.

- Keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Keep children and pets away from the heaters.
- Always turn heaters off when leaving home or going to bed.

## 7. Remember, matches and lighters are not toys.

- Use child-resistant lighters.
- Store matches and lighters up high where children cannot reach them - preferably in a locked cabinet.

- Teach children that matches and lighters are tools for adults, not toys for children.

### Especially for Kids...

- Never, ever play with matches or a lighter.
- If you find matches or a lighter, tell an adult right away.

## 8. Take care of a burn the right way.

- Immediately place the burned area in cool water for 10-15 minutes.
- If a burn blisters or chars, see a physician immediately.

## 9. Be careful with electricity.

- Replace cracked or frayed electrical cords.
- If an appliance smokes or smells hot, unplug it right away and have it repaired.
- Don't overload extension cords or run them under the rug.
- Don't tamper with fuse boxes or use fuses of the wrong size.

## 10. Know what to do if your clothes catch fire -- STOP, DROP AND ROLL!

- **STOP** where you are. Never run.
- **DROP** to the ground. Cover your face with your hands to protect face and lungs.
- **ROLL** over and over to smother the flames.

## Make Sure Smoke Detectors Are Working

The NFPA says that every home should be equipped with properly functioning smoke detectors. To be sure that your smoke detector is in tip-top shape, you should carry out the following steps:

1. Test the detector every month.
2. Replace batteries once a year.
3. Replace the detector if over 10 years old.
4. Don't be a "battery bandit". Never borrow the batteries from a smoke detector.
5. Never paint a smoke detector.
6. Clean detectors with a vacuum cleaner - without removing the cover. Dust and cobwebs can reduce sensitivity to smoke.

### *If there is a fire, be sure to... Test doors before you open them:*

- While kneeling or crouching at the door, reach up high and use the back of your hand to touch the door, doorknob and space between the door and frame. **If any feel hot, do not open door** and use an alternate way out.
- If everything feels hot, brace your shoulder against the door and open carefully, ready to shut it if heat or smoke rushes in.
- If you must use a window to escape, and cannot open it, break it using a chair or drawer from a dresser. Then be sure to cover the window sill with a blanket or rug to protect you from broken glass.