

Put a

# FREEZE

*on Winter Fires*

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!



Nearly half (46%) of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.



Nearly 1 in every 8 (12%) home fires and nearly 1 in every 5 (18%) home fire civilian deaths involved heating equipment.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away** from your home as possible.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month.**



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

# Heating Your Home Safely



Did you know?

**Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year.**

**Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:**

- ✓ Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- ✓ Never use an oven to heat your home.
- ✓ Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ✓ Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit  
**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**.





# Hoarding and Fire Safety



**Know the fire-safety risks and how you can keep yourself and first responders safe.**

## **Risks:**

- Personal items can crowd cooking equipment, making it unsafe to cook.
- Personal items can crowd heating equipment, putting you at risk of having a fire.



## **Difficulties for firefighters:**

- Blocked windows and doors make it difficult for firefighters to get into your home to fight the fire and search for occupants.
- Piles of belongings make it difficult for firefighters to move through your home quickly.



## **Important:**

- Always keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from cooking and heating equipment.
- Keep doorways and windows clear for escape in case there is a fire. This will also prevent injuries from falling over excessive personal items.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit

**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**



# Prevent Home Electrical Fires



Did you know?

**Electrical malfunction is a leading cause of home fires year after year.**

**Share these electrical fire safety tips in your community:**

- ✓ Electrical work should only be done by a qualified electrician.
- ✓ Check your electrical cords. If they are cracked or damaged, replace them. Don't try to repair them.
- ✓ Don't overload extension cords or wall outlets.
- ✓ Never use extension cords with appliances. Plug them directly into wall outlets.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit  
**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**.



# Escape Planning for Older Adults



**Your risk of dying in a home fire is greater as you get older. Knowing what to do if there is a fire can make a big difference.**

- ✓ Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- ✓ Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- ✓ Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- ✓ Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reach next to your bed.
- ✓ Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.



Adults 65 and over are  
twice as likely to die in fires

For more information and free resources, visit  
**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**







# Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!™

How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

## 7 steps to practicing your escape plan

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b></p>  <p>Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.</p> | <p><b>2</b></p>  <p>Find two ways out of every room.</p>                | <p><b>3</b></p>  <p>Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.</p> | <p><b>4</b></p>  <p>Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.</p> |
| <p><b>5</b></p>  <p>Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.</p>         | <p><b>6</b></p>  <p>Practice your drill with everyone in the home.</p> | <p><b>7</b></p>  <p>Get outside to your meeting place.</p>         |  |

For more information about escape planning, visit:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



# Be fire smart

with electricity in your home.

47, 

There are approximately **47,000** home electrical fires each year.



**Half** of all home electrical fires involve home wiring or lighting equipment.



Home electrical fire deaths peak between **midnight** and **8 a.m.**

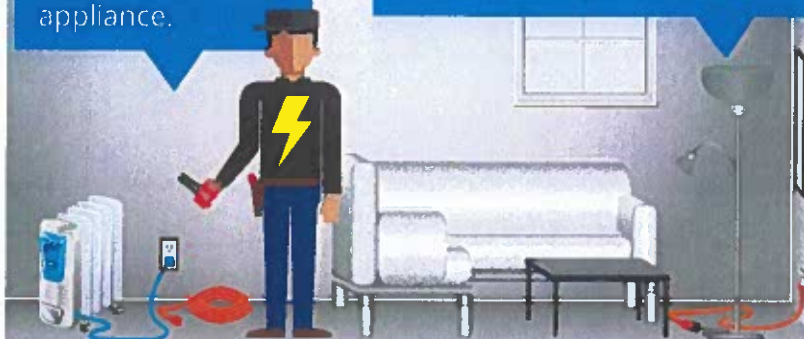


Peak months for electrical fire deaths are **December and January.**

Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a coffee maker, space heater or microwave) directly into a wall outlet at a time.



Never use an extension cord with a heat-producing appliance.



Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Have an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them.



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For more information about electrical fire safety, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [nfpa.org/public-education](http://nfpa.org/public-education).



# Hear the **BEEP** where you **SLEEP**

## Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.



# Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



October 6, 2016

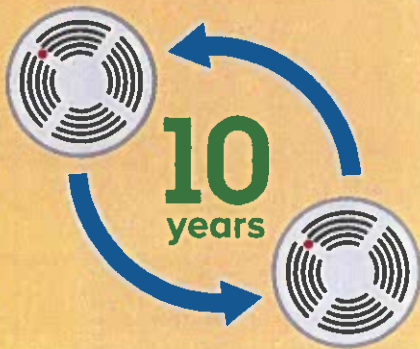


2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



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# High-Rise Apartment and Condominium Fire Safety

Fires in high-rise and condominium buildings are especially dangerous. Make sure you know where all the exit stairs are in your building. If you do have a fire in your building, here are steps you can take to stay safe.

Know how to escape in an emergency:

If you cannot get out of your apartment because of fire, smoke or if you have a disability:

**STUFF** wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out.

**LEAVE** your apartment. Close the door behind you.

**CALL 911** and tell them where you are. It may take a while for the fire department to clear the building. Stay on the phone with the fire department to help them locate you.

**PULL** the fire alarm on your way out to notify the fire department and your neighbors.

**OPEN** a window slightly and place a bright cloth outside to signal your location. Close the window so the air does not pull smoke into your room.

**USE** the stairs to get out. Do not use the elevator unless directed by the fire department.

**GO** to your outside meeting place and stay there. Call the fire department. If someone is trapped in the building, let the fire department know.

Visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) for more free fire-safety resources.



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**Follow these heating safety tips to help keep your home fire safe this winter.**



- Make sure your heater has been tested by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure your heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Keep anything that can burn, like bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from your heater.
- Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.



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# Keep Your Family Safe From Household Chemicals



**Chemicals you use in your home can be dangerous to your health and the environment. To keep your family safe, follow these safety tips when you use, store or throw them out.**

## **Use and storage tips:**

- Follow the instructions on the label when you use and store household chemicals.
- Don't mix products. This can cause deadly gases or cause a fire.
- Store products in their original containers.
- Store anything that can catch on fire away from your home.
- Only fill portable gasoline containers outdoors in an airy area. Make sure to place the container on the ground when you fill it.
- Never store materials that can cause a fire in the sun or near an open flame or heat source.
- Store these materials out of the reach of children and pets.
- Use safety locks and guardrails on shelves and cabinets when you store materials. This will prevent them from falling or tipping.
- Wear gloves or goggles when you use these materials.



## **When you need to throw them out:**

- Follow the instructions on the label.
- Aerosol cans might contain chemicals that can burn. If you put them in the trash, they can explode or start a fire.
- If you have a spill, clean the area and put the containers in an airy place. If you cannot control the spill, or are unsure about cleanup and disposal, call your local fire department.



For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit  
**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**.



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# Clothes Dryer Fire Safety



Did you know?

**You are at higher risk of having a clothes dryer fire if you don't clean your lint filter and dryer vents.**

**Follow these simple safety tips to prevent a clothes dryer fire in your home.**

- ▶ Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- ▶ Do not use the dryer without a lint filter. Clean the lint filter before and after each cycle.
- ▶ Do not forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.
- ▶ Check the venting system behind the dryer to make sure that it is not damaged, crushed or restricted.
- ▶ Make sure that the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is operating.



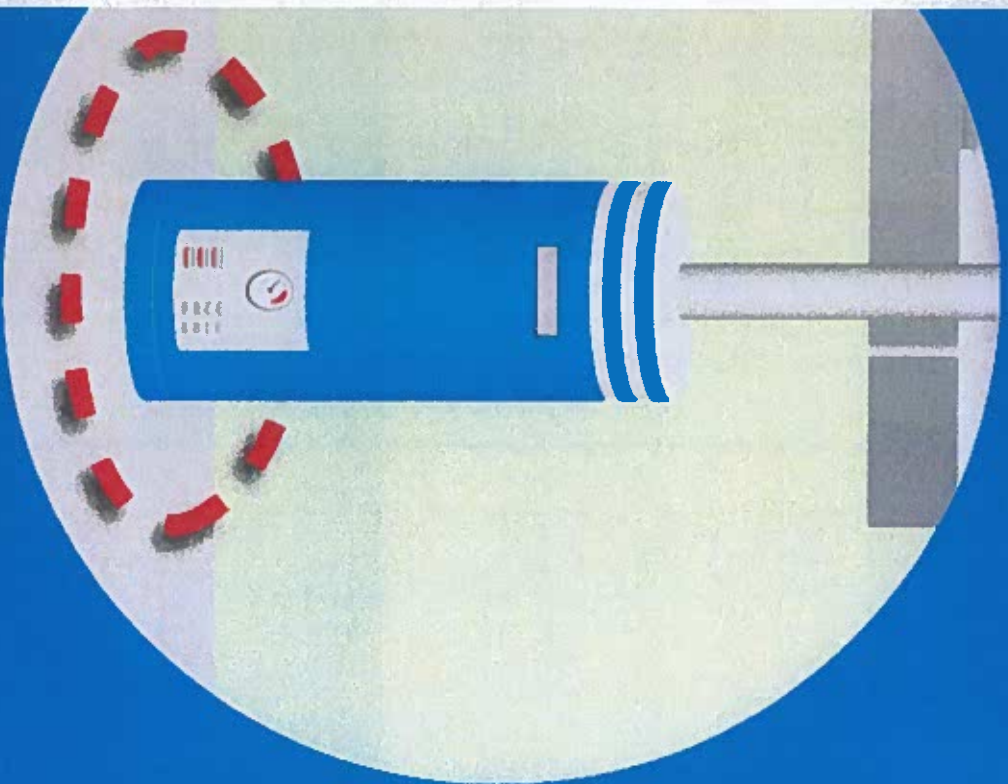
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# Prevent basement fires.

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the furnace, water heater and other heat-generating equipment.



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# Prevent Home Garage Fires



## Did you know?

**Garage fires tend to spread farther and cause more injuries and dollar loss than fires that start in all other areas of the home.**

**Keep your home safe by following a few easy tips:**

- Store oil, gasoline, paints, propane and varnishes in a shed away from your home.
- Keep items that can burn on shelves away from appliances.
- Plug only one charging appliance into an outlet.
- Don't use an extension cord when charging an appliance.

### Garage safety through construction — install:

- A 20-minute fire-rated door that is self-closing and self-latching from the garage into the house.
- A ceiling made with 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board (or the equivalent) if you have living space above the garage.
- A wall with 1/2-inch gypsum board (or the equivalent) if the wall attaches the garage to your home.
- An attic hatch cover if you have attic access from the garage.
- A heat alarm — not a smoke alarm — in your garage. The heat alarm will sound if the temperature rises too high. Learn more about what type of heat alarm is best for garage installation at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

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# Basement Fire Safety



Follow these basement safety tips to help keep your home fire-safe.



## Early Warning Devices

- Install a smoke alarm in the basement. Test the alarm each month, and clean as needed. The basement smoke alarm should be connected to other smoke alarms in your home.
- If you have oil, gas or wood burning equipment in the basement, you should also have a carbon monoxide alarm installed in the basement.



## Utilities

- Maintain easy, quick access to your fuse box or circuit breaker panel.
- Keep the burner access doors on gas water heaters and gas furnaces closed to prevent flames from escaping and starting a fire.



## Housekeeping

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the furnace, oil burner, wood stoves, water heaters, and other heat-generating equipment.
- Keep oily rags in airtight containers and away from heat sources.
- Trash should not be stored in the basement.
- Washers and dryers should be plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Clean lint filters every time you use the dryer. Clean the dryer vent ductwork every year.
- Keep stairs free of clutter and safe for quick exit in an emergency.

For more information and free resources, visit [usfa.fema.gov](https://usfa.fema.gov).



# 5 Steps to Portable Generator Safety



**Portable generators are useful when the power goes out, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.**

Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.



Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.



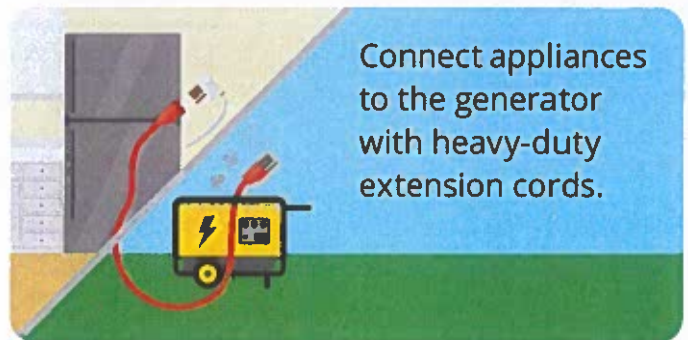
**Carbon Monoxide (CO)**



Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.



Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.



Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.



For more information and free resources, visit **[usfa.fema.gov](https://usfa.fema.gov)**



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# Winter Fire Safety

## Portable Generators and Winter Storms



**Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.**

- ✓ Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- ✓ Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- ✓ Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- ✓ Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- ✓ Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.



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Cook Safely!

# Prevent Kitchen Fires



Did you know?

**Cooking is the main cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!**

✓ **Stand by your pan:**

If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.

✓ **Watch what you are cooking:**

Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.

✓ **Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove:**

Then no one can bump them or pull them over.

✓ **Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby:**

Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.

For more information and resources, visit

**[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)**



# Cooking Fire Safety



**Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Know how to prevent a kitchen fire and what to do if you have one.**

Clean cooking equipment after each use. Crumbs in a toaster or grease on the stove can catch on fire.



If you have a fire in your oven, turn it off. Let the contents cool before cleaning.



If you have a fire in your oven and the flames escape it, leave your home and call 911.



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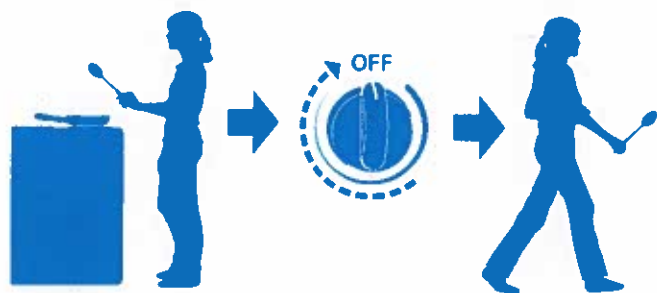
Cook Safely!

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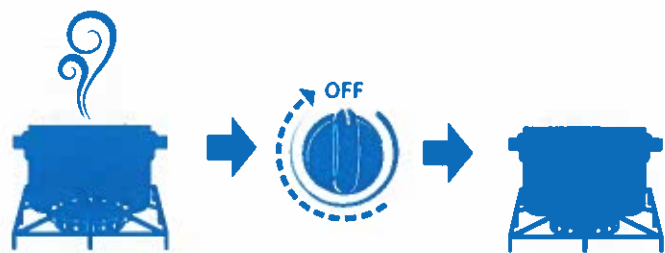


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- ✓ **Turn pot handles to the back:**  
This prevents someone from accidentally touching the handles and spilling the contents of the pot.

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