

Home Fire Safety

More people die in fires than in hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and all natural disasters combined. Most people who die as a result of fire do so in their own home. Please follow the safety tips below. Contact our office if we can be of any assistance in helping you with fire safety.

Sleep With Bedroom Doors Closed

<https://closeyourdoor.org/>

Electrical

- Do not overload electrical circuits
- Diming lights or fading lights may mean real trouble
- Use only proper size fuses and breakers
- Do not use extension cords for heating devices or appliances
- Never run electrical cords under rugs
- Keep dust from accumulating on and under appliances including TV's
- When in doubt hire an electrician or seek professional advice

Cooking

- Never leave any cooking unattended
- Keep pan handles turned toward center of stove
- Wear short sleeves when cooking
- In case of grease fire, NEVER pick up the pan. Slide a lid or cookie sheet over it, turn off the heat and wait for it to cool.

Furnaces

- Clean or change filters regularly (this also helps lower your bill)
- Check exhaust vents
- If oiling is in your manual, do it
- Check the air intake
- Replace carpeting around the furnace with sheet metal or other fireproof material
- Check the thermostat
- Do not use the furnace area for a closet
- Check the flue assembly
- Never attempt to repair gas lines. If you smell gas, get out immediately and call a professional

Space Heaters

- Follow all manufacturer's instructions
- Keep the heater at least 36 inches away from anything combustible
- Turn off all space heaters when leaving your home or going to bed
- Do not use a space heater to dry wet clothing
- Never use a kitchen stove for a space heater

Water Heaters

- Keep the temperature at approximately 120-125 degrees
- Check it once a year
- Check the flue if it is a gas heater
- Check the wiring if it is an electric heater
- Check the relief valve for corrosion
- Never close or cover a floor or wall vent in a gas water heater compartment

Smoke Detectors

- Mobile Homes or Manufactured Homes should have at least one working smoke detector. A good place is in a hallway near the bedrooms. However, the more smoke detectors, the better. We recommend one in each bedroom and outside each bedroom.
- Check the detector at least once a month and replace the batteries twice a year (Remember spring forward, fall back)
- Texas Law requires all rental properties to have working smoke detectors installed

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide detectors, also known as CO alarms, function similarly to smoke alarms. If CO levels are present on your home, the detector will emit a sharp beeping sound to alert you to the danger. People who have been exposed to CO experience a range of symptoms that may include headache, confusion, drowsiness, dizziness and loss of consciousness leading to death if not moved from a safer environment and treated. If your home has gas, oil or wood burning appliances, you should have working CO alarms in your home.

- Place CO alarms on each level of your home.
- Check the detector monthly and replace your batteries twice a year.
- Follow the manufacture instructions for proper care and placement.

When There's A Fire

- Get out quickly. Fires can spread very fast. Follow your families escape plan.
- Stay low and crawl to avoid smoke. Most house fires have very toxic smoke
- Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone
- Never reenter a burning structure