

Fundamentals of Fire Safety

Don't get Alarm Lazy

Make sure you've got ionization and photoelectric alarms on every floor, including the basement. When the alarm chirps, replace the battery.

Do get a Multisensory Device

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may need an alarm that flashes or vibrates to alert you that something is amiss.

Banish Old Space Heaters

They can lower your utility bills, but they're also a prime cause of home fires. Buy a new model that turns off automatically if it tips over or gets overheated.

Toss After 10

Problems with electric blankets and heating pads tend to occur when they're more than 10 years old. Replace if they have charred spots, they have frayed or cracked electrical cords, or they're a decade or more old.

Beware of Overload

Older homes may not be equipped to handle today's stash of electronics. Overburdened systems can spark fires. Replace, don't repair, damaged electrical cords.

Tend to the Furnace

Faulty fireplaces and woodstoves are prime hazards. Have a trained professional inspect your system, especially if it's been a while. Generators should also be checked, ideally every year.

Practice makes Protection

Have an escape plan and practice it. Any plan should have two ways out of every room; make sure windows and doors open easily. Remember: Stay low and go.

Smoking No's

Smoking-related fires cause the most deaths in the U.S. It's best not to smoke inside your house, but fire can start outside too. Dampen butts and ashes before throwing them away.

3 SURPRISING THINGS MOST LIKELY TO GO UP IN FLAMES

- 1) Battery-charged appliances
- 2) Paper and cloth towels
- 3) Dryer Lint

Source: AARP.org/bulletin

This information has been prepared by Lakes Publishing, LLC. The information provided is educational in nature and is not intended to be construed as, legal, tax or investment advice and does not necessarily represent the views of the presenting party. Specific state laws relevant to a particular situation may affect the applicability, accuracy or completeness of this information. Material presented is believed to be from reliable sources, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. If additional information is needed, the reader is advised to seek professional services.

©Lakes Publishing 2018-2023