

## FIRE SAFETY

### Planning, Prevention, Practice

These are the three keys to fire safety not only at work and school, but at home. Each year there are approximately 4,000 fire deaths in the United States. 83% of these fire deaths and 77% of the 13,700 fire injuries occur in the home, a place where most people feel safe and secure.

A significant factor contributing to the cause and spread of fire is human failure. Recognizing hazards and performing adequate preparation and preventative measures will drastically reduce loss of life and property. Protect your family by following the safety procedures listed in this brochure.

### THE EFFECTS OF DEADLY SMOKE AND POISONOUS GASES

The peak time for home fires is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when most people are asleep. Fire victims are usually overcome while they sleep and they die from smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning not from burns. Studies have shown that from the time a fire starts a person has an average of less than 4 minutes and sometimes as little as 1 minute to escape the disabling effects of smoke and poisonous gases. It is those same gases that dull your senses while you sleep making a safe escape even more difficult.



### IMPORTANCE OF SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors are the leading lifesaving device in home fire safety. Most fatal home fires occur at night while people are asleep. Smoke detectors can alert sleeping residents before they become fire victims. By installing and maintaining smoke detectors in your home you can reduce your chances of dying in a fire by 50%.

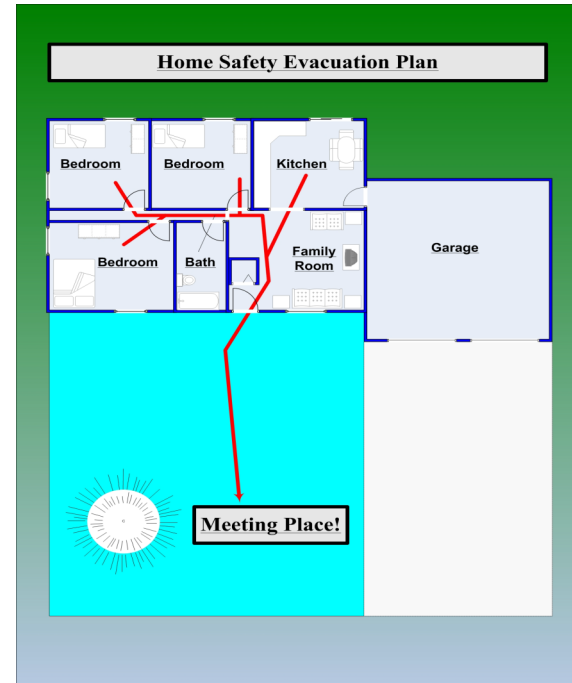
Smoke detectors should be installed on every level of the home and in every room where someone sleeps. Smoke detectors should be tested monthly and the batteries should be replaced at least yearly, better yet, when you change your clock in the spring and fall, change your detector battery. Never borrow the battery from your smoke detector.

96% of U.S. homes have smoke detectors. However 23% of the smoke detectors do not work because of dead or missing batteries. Smoke detectors provide early warning to a fire. If this time is used properly it can save your life. But don't wait until your smoke detector sounds to develop an escape plan.

## PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

Every household should have an escape plan and every member of the family should be familiar with it. Special escape plans should be made for seniors, children, or disabled residents. This fire escape plan should be practiced at least once annually.

Every room in the house in which people sleep should have two exits. Occupants must know how to unlock and open the doors and windows. Residents should not stop to collect personal belongings when there is a fire. Once outside all family members should go to the designated family meeting place. Call the fire department from a neighbor's. ***NEVER*** go back inside a burning structure!



## BEDROOM SAFETY & ESCAPE PROCEDURES

Residents must know how to safely exit their bedroom when the smoke detector sounds. Bedroom safety includes the following tips:

- ✓ Install a smoke detector in every room where someone sleeps.
- ✓ Have two exits out of every room where someone sleeps.
- ✓ Roll out of bed and crawl low under smoke.



- ✓ Feel the door with the back of your hand. If the door is cool, open slowly and exit if the area is clear. If the door is hot, use a secondary exit.
- ✓ Second floor bedrooms should exit onto a safe roof area or have an escape ladder.
- ✓ Once outside, go to a designated meeting place in front of your home.
- ✓ If you are trapped hang a blanket out the window to signal firefighters.
- ✓ Stay by the window, never hide in the closet or under the bed.
- ✓ Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.

## KITCHEN SAFETY

The kitchen is the most dangerous room in the house. Each year in the U.S. there are approximately 17 million kitchen fires, many of which are minor and go unreported. Cooking fires kill nearly 400 victims a year. The kitchen can be kept accident free by following these tips:

- ✓ Never leave cooking unattended.
- ✓ Avoid loose fitting clothing when cooking.
- ✓ Turn pot handles in so that pots can't be knocked or pulled down by small children.
- ✓ Keep the stove and oven clean.
- ✓ Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- ✓ Extinguish a grease fire by putting a lid on the pan and turning the burner off.



- ✓ Keep combustible materials three feet from heat sources.
- ✓ Never pour water on a grease fire!
- ✓ Install a 5 lb. Dry Chemical fire extinguisher near the kitchen exit.
- ✓ Always use microwave safe dishes in microwaves.
- ✓ Lift lids slowly to prevent steam burns.

**If your clothes catch on fire immediately cover your face with your hands fall onto the ground and STOP, DROP and ROLL to smother flames.**

## MISCELLANEOUS SAFETY TIPS

Dial 9-1-1 to get help in any emergency.

- ✓ House numbers should be a minimum of four inches tall and easily visible from the street.
- ✓ If your house number is posted on the mailbox, make sure it is on both sides.
- ✓ Learn how to use a fire extinguisher.
- ✓ Never fight a large fire; call the fire department. They have the experience, training, and equipment.
- ✓ Burn injuries should be treated by applying cool water to the burn and calling for help.
- ✓ Provide baby-sitters with details about your plans, the children's needs and the home escape plan.
- ✓ Be extra careful when using flammable liquids.
- ✓ Inspect electrical cords, avoid using extension cords, and don't overload electrical outlets.
- ✓ Learn CPR and basic first aid. They can make the difference between life and death.
- ✓ Don't smoke in bed or when tired.

### OHIO STATISTICS

57,531 fires occurred with 157 deaths. 14,826 residential fires caused 137 deaths (80% of fire deaths) and 1,513 serious injuries.

The leading causes of fires in Ohio are: cooking, heating, arson, appliances, children playing with matches or lighters, and smoking.

## EDUCATIONAL & PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS

Strongsville Fire & Emergency Services offers a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of the community.

- Home safety inspections
- CPR and first aid training
- Juvenile fire setter counseling
- Fire extinguisher training
- Safety town instruction
- Fire safety education for all Kindergarten thru third graders
- Career day presentations and shadowing
- Station tours
- Educational programs for schools, businesses, or community groups



SMOKE CAN ENGULF A HOME IN LESS THAN 10 MINUTES.

A FIRE DOUBLES IN SIZE EVERY MINUTE.

A FIRE KILLS SOMEONE IN THE U.S. EVERY 97 MINUTES.

# A GUIDE TO HOME FIRE SAFETY



A PUBLIC SERVICE BROCHURE  
created and distributed by

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