



## Fire Protection Information

Knowing what to do should a fire occur is very important. More important still is the prevention of a fire. Take the time to inspect your home for possible safety hazards, bare wires, and improperly operating heating equipment.

Fire prevention is something the entire family may participate in. Encourage children to assist with checking the home for hazards.

By taking the time to carefully inspect your home for possible hazards, you may prevent a major catastrophe.

### **Portable Fire Extinguishers**

Remember the acronym PASS.

**Pull** the pin.

**Aim** the extinguisher nozzle at the base of the flames.

**Squeeze** trigger while holding the extinguisher upright.

**Sweep** the extinguisher from side to side, covering the area of the fire with the extinguishing agent.

### **Exit Drills in the Home**

Establishing exit drills in the home will ensure the residents will be familiar with the procedures should a fire occur.

1. Prepare a floor plan of your home showing at least **two** ways out of each room
2. Sleep with your bedroom door closed. It helps to hold back heat and smoke.
3. Agree on a fixed location outdoors where family members are to gather for a head count.
4. Make certain that no one goes back inside.
5. Practice, practice, practice.

### **Home Fire Safety Checklist**

#### Pre-fire Planning

- Have you planned at least two ways to get out of every room in your home?
- Do you keep exit routes clear in your home?
- Do you know how to notify your fire department quickly and correctly in case of fire?

#### Especially for Children

- Do you make it a rule to never leave small children alone or unattended?
- Do you show your babysitters the escape routes from your home and give instructions on the correct way to report a fire?

#### Smoking Habits

- Is smoking in bed strictly against the rules in your home?
- Do you always make sure that cigarette, cigar, and pipe ashes are completely extinguished before you dispose of them?
- Are matches kept out of the reach of children?

#### Heating and Cooking

- Are furnaces, stoves and smoke pipes kept in good repair and located

far enough away from combustible walls and ceilings so that they do not create a hazard?

- Do you use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying?
- If you have portable space heaters in your home do you see that they are properly maintained and located?
- Do you keep portable space heaters away from people, curtains, and furniture?
- Do you have an annual inspection of your heating system?
- Do your sleeves get into things when you cook? Wear tight-fitting clothing when you cook.
- Can you stop a cooking fire safely? Smother a pan fire with a lid. Never use water. If cooking oil starts to smoke, turn down the heat. Don't throw whatever is handy on the fire. For example, dumping flour from the bag on the fire can cause an explosion.

#### Electricity

- Do you see that extension cords are never run under rugs or hooked over nails? Avoid using extension cords wherever possible, especially small-wired cords use with high-wattage appliances.
- When the breaker "trips" or a fuse blows, do you investigate WHY it happened? If a fuse blows or a breaker "trips," find the cause. Remove excess appliances (lamps, stereo components, space heaters, etc.) from a breaker circuit that frequently "trips."
- Is the right size fuse in each socket in the fuse box? Replace the fuse with one of the correct size.
- Is your TV well ventilated? Allow air space around the TV to prevent overheating.

#### Good Housekeeping

- Do you keep rubbish cleaned out of the attic, basement, closets, garage and yard? Sort and remove rubbish. Don't store things near the furnace or heater.
- Are gasoline and other flammable liquids stored in safety cans and kept well away from both heat and children? Move flammable liquids away from heat. Do not store flammable liquids in the home. Keep them stored outside and away from the house in a separate storage building. Don't fill a hot lawn mower or other motor; let it cool first.

#### **Kitchen Fires**

Kitchens are relatively safe places, but when you combine people with the operations of the kitchen and a failure to act appropriately, you have accidents.

## **Appliances**

**Electrical:** Unplug portables when unattended. Keep cords away from hot surfaces, water and sinks. Do not use cords with splices and missing grounding prongs.

**Hot Surfaces:** Keep potholders, boxes, plastic utensils, etc free from combustibles. Turn off hot plates when not in use. Be alert to prevent personal burns. Pot handles should not extend out from stove tops.

**Microwave Ovens:** Know the dangers. No metal or plastic products; use only approved utensils and dishware.

## **If a fire should occur in your home...**

1. Get out of the house.
2. Have a meeting place outside the house. By establishing a central meeting place outside the house, you can count heads and not have to wonder who might still be inside.
3. Telephone the fire department from a neighbor's house.
4. Never go back inside for any reason! Once you are outside, do not go back inside.

**In a fire, seconds count!** For early detection of fires, install smoke detectors near your sleeping areas. If you have a multistory house, install smoke detectors at each level.

If you have sleeping areas located on the second floor, provide an escape ladder or rope. Check these carefully to make certain they are safe.

Check windows that would be used in an escape to see that they open easily.

Should you be caught in smoke, crawl. Smoke rises, so stay close to the floor where the air will be less toxic.

Clothing will burn rapidly. If your clothes ignite, do not run. **Stop, drop and roll!**

## **Don't let this happen to your home!**

These few reminders may seem quite simple, and they are. But when you stop and think a moment, the simple basics can save lives, much suffering, and a great deal of property.