

## **FIRE PREVENTION – Be safe, have a fire plan**

Your best line of defense is prevention rather than having to deal with the devastation that fire can cause.. Learning what you can do before a fire takes place can save lives.

The following steps can be taken to protect your family from the dangers of fire:

- Install working smoke detectors on every level of your home: outside bedrooms on the ceiling or high on the wall, at the top of open stairways or at the bottom of enclosed stairs and near the kitchen.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and replace the batteries when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.
- With your family create an escape plan, two escape routes from every room in the house. Practice your escape plan.
- Establish a common place for the family to meet after escape. Once you are out - stay out.
- Clear out storage areas. Don't let trash (such as old newspapers and magazines) accumulate.
- Take extra care with cigarettes and other smoking materials.
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets. If you need to plug in two or three appliances, obtain a UL listed approved unit with built in circuit breakers to prevent sparks and short circuits.
- Have home heating devices inspected regularly by a professional.
- Call your local fire department and request a home fire safety inspection.
- If you have a fireplace or a woodstove, clean it often and always use a fire screen, ensuring it is the appropriate size for the fireplace opening.
- If you have a chimney, have it cleaned and inspected on a regular basis by a professional.
- Do not store propane indoors.

There are also fire dangers when it comes to cooking and there are some simple tips to remember to help prevent fire:

- Never attempt to move a flaming pot or pan away from the stove. The movement can fan the flames and spread the fire, and the pan will likely be very hot causing you to drop it. In both cases, you are placing yourself at great risk.
- Install and be knowledgeable in the use of the appropriate fire extinguisher.
- Keep the oven clean. Grease and food splatters can ignite at high temperatures.
- Do not use tin foil or any other metal objects in the microwave. If a fire occurs, keep the door closed and unplug the unit. Call a qualified maintenance person to ensure it is in proper working order before using the microwave again.
- Avoid loose long sleeves when cooking.
- Never leave pots and pans unattended.

Fire prevention, it's not something you think about all the time and you may think it only happens to other people. However, every year, in Canada, many people experience damage due to fire, have their homes destroyed by fire and in some cases lose loved ones. Take the time now to plan your escape and ensure you are fire safe.

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*Source: The following have been compiled from various fire department websites. For specific information or questions please contact your local fire department.*