

Fires

All homes should be equipped with properly working smoke detectors. Approximately 2/3 of all Home Fire Deaths, result from fires in homes with no smoke detectors, or non working smoke detectors. Smoke detectors should be placed in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on all levels of the home. Hard wired smoke detectors need to have a battery back up, in the event of power failure; smoke detectors should be tested once a month, and the batteries should be changed any time a chirping noise is heard, and when you change your clocks for daylight savings time. It is vital that all residents in the home familiarize themselves with the sound of the smoke detectors, and know what to do when the alarms sounds. Family members must develop a Home Fire Escape Plan, which they practice monthly. All rooms should have two ways out, with doors and windows free of obstruction. Once outside of the home, all family members must be aware of the pre determined meeting place, and should not reenter the home for any reason. If any member of the family or pet is still inside, it is vital to tell Firefighters upon their arrival.

To help prevent Home Fires, residents should never smoke in bed, or when under the influence of drugs or alcohol. When cooking, residents should not cook when tired, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or when wearing loose clothing. Unattended cooking is the primary cause of Home Cooking fires. When walking away from the stove, it is vital to turn off all burners. BBQ grills should only be used outside, in a clean safe location, away from all structures. When cooking or using a BBQ, keep children away to prevent fires and injuries. Before using a propane grill always check each fitting, grease pans, and the tank itself for defects and leaks. When utilizing candles in the home, never use close to curtains, paper, plastic, or in a location where it could be knocked over, or cause a burn

Portable fire extinguishers have limits in their capacity to put out fires. Call the fire department if there is a fire. As a general rule, firefighting should be left to the experts. Only use a fire extinguisher if you have been trained to do so. Practice how to use fire extinguishers before a fire occurs. If your clothes catch fire, **STOP, DROP, AND ROLL**. Stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover face with hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out. If you use a wheelchair, scooter or other device and are able to get to the floor, lock the device first to stay in place before getting on the floor to roll until the flames are out. Use cool water to treat the burn immediately for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help right away. Fire Safety Drills and practices must be understood and demonstrated by all members of the family to prevent a tragedy. Residents can feel free to contact their local fire department in order to request an evaluation of their home. This pre-planning allows the fire department to know the layout of your home and can pin point places of access as well as point out potential hazards.