

Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division

Fire Prevention and Safety Tips

Smoking

- If you smoke, smoke outside and extinguish cigarettes in an ashtray filled with sand or water.
- Do not discard cigarettes in potted plants, leaves, mulch or other vegetation.
- Do not smoke while on oxygen.

Cooking

- Never leave food cooking on the stovetop unattended; stay and look while you cook.
- Keep items like oven mitts, aprons and paper towels 3 feet from heat sources in the kitchen.

Heating

- Keep space heaters three feet from anything combustible.
- Do not leave space heaters unattended. Turn them off while you're sleeping.
- Plug space heaters directly into the wall, not an extension cord or power strip.
- Have your furnace and chimney inspected annually.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

- Test your smoke and CO alarms monthly; change the batteries at least once a year.
- Fire doubles in size every minute; a smoke alarm can give you the time you need to escape.
- Install smoke alarms in bedrooms, outside sleeping areas and on every level of the home.
- CO alarms should be installed within 10 feet of each sleeping room or inside each sleeping room.

Family escape planning

Create a family escape plan and practice it twice a year with everyone in your home.

- Start by drawing a map of your home that shows two ways out of every room. Make sure those ways out are easy to open (make sure windows aren't painted shut, for example), and practice using different ones. If you have a multi-level home, consider putting an escape ladder near each window so you can get to the ground safely in an emergency.
- Designate a meeting place outside, such as a tree or utility pole.

