

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are the most effective way to prevent death and injury from house fires.

Test your alarm monthly by following the directions provided with your smoke alarm.



House Fires Causes & Prevention

1000 N.E. 10th
Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1299

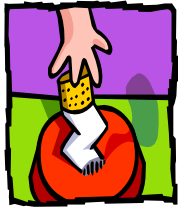
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House Fires



Causes & Prevention



Cigarettes are a leading cause of house fires

Cigarettes/smoking start 15% of the fires in Oklahoma. Three out of four injured people die in those fires.

Prevention

- Never smoke while lying down on a couch or in bed.
- Check under chairs and sofa cushions for cigarette butts before going to sleep.
- Wet cigarette butts, ashes, and matches before dumping ashtrays.
- Extinguish lit cigarettes in an ashtray when leaving the room.
- Use large, deep ashtrays.

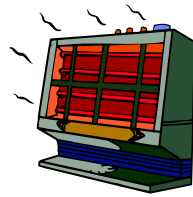


Cooking does not seem dangerous

but it causes many injuries to adults as well as children. It can also cause house fires.

Prevention

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking.
- Keep pan and pot handles turned in to keep them from being knocked off or pulled off by children.
- Wear close-fitting sleeves while cooking. Loose-fitting sleeves may catch fire or knock pans off the stove.
- Put out grease fires by covering the pan with a lid or using a fire extinguisher.



Heating Equipment

such as space heaters, gas heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces cause many fires, mainly in winter months. Almost 20% of the fires in Oklahoma start this way.

Prevention

- Keep heaters, stoves, and fireplaces at least 3 feet from everything that burns, such as: sofas, curtains, beds, clothes, walls, and blankets.
- Watch children closely while in rooms with space heaters.
- Use screens in front of fireplaces. Put ashes from wood stoves and fireplaces in a metal container and place outside.
- If a heater uses fuel like propane or kerosene, use only that kind of fuel. Add more fuel only when the heater is cool.
- Properly maintain heating equipment. Have chimneys cleaned every year.



Children playing with fire

are a major cause of house fires in Oklahoma. Nearly three out of four people killed in those fires were under the age of 5 years old.

Prevention

Teach your children...

- That fire is a tool and not a toy.
 - To tell you if they find matches and lighters.
 - To never stick objects into space heaters, fire places, gas heaters, or any open flame.
- Always keep matches and lighters out of the hands of children.



Hot Spots

In a home can cause a fire. With little effort or cost, you could save your home and your life.

Prevention

- Extinguish (blow out) candles before leaving the room.
- Use electricity responsibly. Too many plugs in wall sockets or overloaded extension cords are fire dangers.
- Replace cracked or frayed (split) electrical cords.
- Keep liquids that burn easily, like gasoline and paint thinner, outside in closed metal containers.

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