



Prepare Your Home

- Be sure you have a smoke alarm on each floor of your home and outside of sleeping areas.
- Each month, check the smoke detector by pushing the 'Test' button. Vacuum cobwebs and dust away from the detector.
- Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced annually.
- Every 10 years you should replace the entire smoke alarm; their sensitivity decreases over time.
- Install an automatic sprinkler system.
- Have protective shutters or fire resistant drapes installed.
- Keep fire extinguishers in your home, and make sure everyone knows how to use them.

Prepare your Family

- Have a fire evacuation plan.
- Be sure that it is easy to open all doors and windows in case of evacuation.
- Teach your family to stay close to the ground if there is a fire. Asphyxiation causes the majority of fire deaths.
- Before opening a door in a burning home, feel the top of the door, doorknob, and door frame with the back of your hand. If it is hot, do not open the door. Exit using another door or window.

Fire Prevention

- Throw away any unwanted storage. Accumulation of old newspapers and magazines is a fire hazard.
- Follow local regulations about outdoor burning.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned to prevent chimney fires, which result from the buildup of creosote and soot.
- Maintain the area around your home by: raking and removing leaves, twigs, dead tree limbs, and mowing the grass regularly.
- Request to the power company that branches be cleared from nearby power lines.
- Stack firewood at least 100 feet from your home.
- Clean your rooftop and gutters regularly.
- Keep flammable liquids in well-ventilated storage.
- Replace frayed or exposed extension cords with new ones.

Fire Statistics

- In 2006 there were an estimated 412,500 residential structure fires which caused \$6.990 billion in losses (firesafety.gov).
- In 2006 there were 2,620 deaths and 12,925 injuries that resulted from structure fires in the US (firesafety.gov).
- During the holiday season, fires cause about \$990 million in damage (U.S. Fire Administration).



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