

Almost all fires in the home can be prevented. Here are some fire safety tips which could prevent a fire from starting in your home:

## Prevention

### Kitchen safety

Cooking with oil and fat is one of the most common causes of fire in the home.

To keep your kitchen safe, remember:

- **NEVER** fill a chip pan more than one-third full with oil or fat
- **NEVER** leave hot oil or fat unattended
- **NEVER** put the food in the pan if the oil begins to give off smoke. Turn off the heat and leave the oil to cool
- **NEVER** allow oil and fat to build up in ovens and grill pans

If the pan does catch fire: don't take risks. There is no such thing as a safe fire. It is better for you to prevent fire than to fight it. Tackling fire is a job best left to professional firefighters. **NEVER put water on to the fire!**

### Electrical fires

Hundreds of people die and are injured each year as a result of electrical fires.

Danger signs to look out for include:

- Hot plugs and sockets
- Fuses that blow for no obvious reason
- Lights flickering
- Brown scorch marks on sockets and plugs

**REMEMBER - 'one appliance, one socket' is safest**

### Portable and open fires

- Do not place portable heaters too near to furniture or curtains
- **NEVER** place anything on top of heaters or dry clothes on or too near to them
- **ALWAYS** use suitable guards in front of open fires

### Candles

- Do not leave burning candles unattended, especially with young children or pets in the house
- Do not place burning candles close to curtains, bedding or clothing which may catch fire

### Smoking materials

Smoking materials are responsible for many fires in the home.

To avoid fires of this type:

- **NEVER** leave a lit cigarette, cigar or other smoking material unattended
- **NEVER** smoke in bed
- **ALWAYS** keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of children

## Detection

### Smoke alarms

You are much more likely to die in a fire in your own home if you do not have a working smoke alarm. A smoke alarm can give you those precious few minutes of warning which could help you and your family to get out safely. Smoke alarms are a safety device. Every home should have one, preferably one on each floor.

**Smoke alarms should be properly maintained:**

- Test once a week
- Vacuum the smoke alarm twice a year
- Change the battery every year (unless fitted with a 10-year battery)

## Escape plans

### How would you escape?

If a fire occurs in your home you may have to get out in dark and difficult conditions.

**Escaping from a fire will be much easier if you have already planned your escape route and know what to do:**

- Make your fire escape plan with other members of your household
- **ALWAYS** keep keys to locked doors and windows safe and available. They may be needed in an emergency.
- Identify alternative ways out in case the main exit becomes blocked and keep all routes clear of anything that could hinder your escape

### Night-time routine

Many fires start at night. Make sure you have a night-time fire safety routine to help keep you and your family safe.

**Here are a few simple things you should do every night:**

- Unplug electrical appliances not designed to stay on
- Switch off portable heaters
- Make sure no cigarettes, cigars or other smoking materials are still burning
- **ALWAYS** close doors to all rooms

