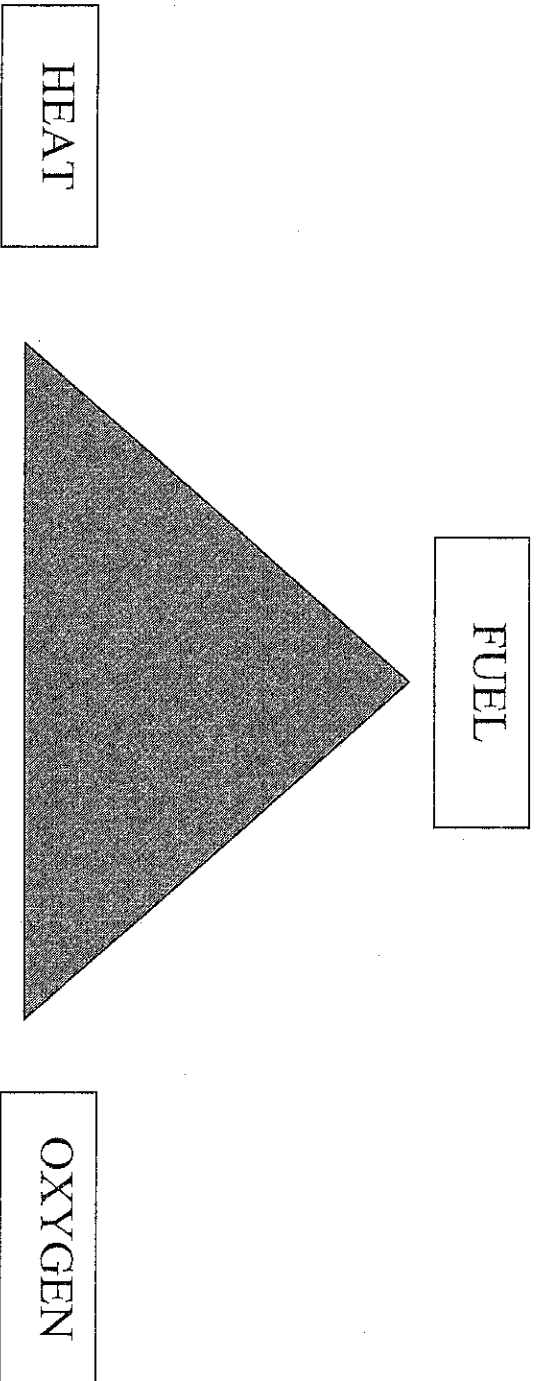


FIRE SCIENCE



This Is Called the Fire Triangle
All 3 Elements are Necessary for Fire to Occur

**FIRE DOUBLES IN SIZE GEOMETRICALLY
EVERY MINUTE**

NORMAL FIRE RESPONSE TIME IS 5-10 MINUTES

**SIMPLE MATH TELLS US THAT THE HOME WILL BE
ENGULFED BEFORE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CAN
ARRIVE**

**YOUR ACTIONS BECOME CRITICAL IN TERMS OF
SAVING LIFE AND PROPERTY**

**MOST FIRE FATALITIES ARE THE RESULT OF SMOKE
INHALATION OR BREATHING SUPER-HEATED AIR-
NOT ACTUAL BURNS**

**Synthetics used in our homes give off significant toxic gasses
when heated or burned**

Clothing

Carpeting

Plastics

Cleaners/Solvents

Paints

**OUR PHYSICAL RESPONSE TO CRISIS SOMETIMES
LEADS US TO MAKE POOR DECISIONS**

When you touch something hot, what happens?

If you get “zapped” by electricity, what happens?

USE WHAT YOU KNOW TO SAVE YOUR LIFE

KITCHEN FIRES ARE THE MOST COMMON TYPE

Burning Pans

Oven Fires

If you think about these things logically, you'll make better decisions that can prevent injury, property damage, or even death



U.S. Fire Administration Fire Estimates

Fire Estimate Summaries present basic data on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each Fire Estimate Summary addresses the size of the specific fire or fire-related issue and highlights important trends in the data.¹

Residential Building Estimates

Definition of Residential Building

A *structure* is a constructed item of which a *building* is one type. The term *residential structure* commonly refers to buildings where people live. To coincide with this concept, the definition of a *residential structure fire* includes only those fires confined to an enclosed building or fixed portable or mobile structure with a residential property use. Such fires are referred to as *residential buildings* to distinguish these buildings from other structures on residential properties that may include fences, sheds, and other uninhabitable structures. *Residential buildings* include, but are not limited to one- or two-family dwellings, multifamily dwellings, manufactured housing, boarding houses or residential hotels, commercial hotels, college dormitories, and sorority/fraternity houses.

Fire Estimate Summaries of Residential Building Fire Trends and Causes (2005-2009)

Download an Estimate Summary



Go

Residential Building Fires (2005-2009)

Year	Fires	Deaths	Injuries	Dollar Loss
2005	376,500	2,895	13,375	7,136,600,000
2006	392,700	2,490	12,550	7,072,000,000
2007	390,300	2,765	13,525	7,405,500,000
2008	378,200	2,650	13,100	7,993,000,000
2009	356,200	2,480	12,600	7,259,800,000

Residential Building National Estimates (2003-2009)

Download

[Cause Definitions](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/nfirs/html/fire_cause_category_usa.xlsx.shtml) (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/nfirs/html/fire_cause_category_usa.xlsx.shtml)

[Residential Building National Estimates by Property Use](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/res_bldg_fire_overall.xlsx) (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/res_bldg_fire_overall.xlsx) (XLSX, 13 Kb)

This spreadsheet contains overall residential building estimates and estimates by property use.

[Residential Building National Estimates by Property Use and Cause](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/res_bldg_fire_cause.xlsx) (http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/res_bldg_fire_cause.xlsx) (XLSX, 27 Kb)

This spreadsheet contains overall residential building estimates for fires, deaths, injuries, and dollar loss by property use and fire cause.

Nonresidential Building Estimates (2005-2009)

Definition of Nonresidential Building

Nonresidential buildings are a subset of *nonresidential structures* and refer to buildings on nonresidential properties. Buildings include enclosed structures, subway terminals, underground buildings, and fixed portable or mobile structures. The term *nonresidential buildings* refers to those nonresidential structures that are enclosed. *Nonresidential buildings* include assembly, eating and drinking establishments, educational facilities, stores, offices, basic industry, manufacturing, storage, detached garages, outside properties, and other nonpermanent residential buildings. The term *nonresidential* also includes institutional properties such as prisons, nursing homes, juvenile care facilities, and hospitals, though many people may reside there for short (or long) durations of time.


Fire Estimate Summaries of Nonresidential Building Fire Trends and Causes (2005-2009)

Download an Estimate Summary


 Go**Nonresidential Building Fires (2005-2009)**

Year	Fires	Deaths	Injuries	Dollar Loss
2005	101,400	40	1,400	2,347,700,000
2006	98,900	75	1,350	2,495,100,000
2007	103,000	90	1,275	2,967,200,000
2008	97,100	100	1,250	3,439,900,000
2009	89,200	90	1,500	2,759,500,000

Nonresidential Building National Estimates (2003-2009)**Download**[Cause Definitions \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireserver/ncs/nfires/ncs/fire_cause_category_main14.shtml\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireserver/ncs/nfires/ncs/fire_cause_category_main14.shtml)

 [Nonresidential Building National Estimates by Property Use \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/ncsres_bldg_fire_overall.xlsx\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/ncsres_bldg_fire_overall.xlsx) (XLSX, 16 Kb)


This spreadsheet contains overall nonresidential building estimates and estimates for fires, deaths, injuries, and dollar loss by property use for 2003-2009.

 [Nonresidential Building National Estimates by Property Use and Cause \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/ncsres_bldg_fire_cause.xlsx\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/xls/estimates/ncsres_bldg_fire_cause.xlsx) (XLSX, 31 Kb)

This spreadsheet contains overall nonresidential building estimates for fires and dollar loss by property use and fire cause.

¹ Fire Estimate Summaries are based on the USFA's national estimates methodology. The USFA is committed to providing the best and most current information on the United States' fire problem and, as a result, continually examines its data and methodology. Because of this commitment, changes to data collection strategies and estimate methodologies occur, causing estimates to change slightly over time. Previous estimates on specific issues (or similar issues) may have been a result of different methodologies or data definitions used and may not be directly comparable to current estimates.

Related Topics

- [National Fire Protection Association Estimates \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/estimates/nfpa/index.shtml\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/estimates/nfpa/index.shtml)
-  [USFA Residential and Nonresidential Fire Estimate Summaries, 2003-2008 \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/ncs/statistics/fire_estimate_summaries0309.zip\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/ncs/statistics/fire_estimate_summaries0309.zip) (ZIP, 3.8 Mb - This archive contains files in PDF and XLSX formats.)

Links of Interest

- [National Fire Protection Association \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml)
- [World Fire Statistics Centre \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml)
- [National Center for Health Statistics \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml)
- [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control \(http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/ncs/ncs_bldg_fire_cause_definitions.shtml)

Last Reviewed: December 8, 2010

U.S. Fire Administration, 16825 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727 | USNG: 18SUJ00529652
(301) 447-1000 Fax: (301) 447-1346 Admissions Fax: (301) 447-1441

[Employment Opportunities U.S. Fire Administration](#),
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727 Call Us at (301) 447-1000 [View Desktop Version](#)



Fire Extinguishers

USFA recommends that only those trained in the proper use and maintenance of fire extinguishers consider using them when appropriate.

The use of a fire extinguisher in the hands of a trained adult can be a life and property saving tool. However, a majority of adults have not had fire extinguisher training and may not know how and when to use them. Fire extinguisher use requires a sound decision making process and training on their proper use and maintenance.

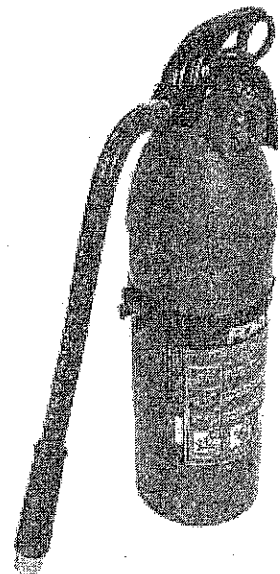
Should I Use a Fire Extinguisher?

Consider the following three questions before purchasing or using a fire extinguisher to control a fire:

1. What type of fire extinguisher is needed?

Different types of fires require different types of extinguishers. For example, a grease fire and an electrical fire require the use of different extinguishing agents to be effective and safely put the fire out.

Basically, there are five different types of extinguishing agents. Most fire extinguishers display symbols to show the kind of fire on which they are to be used.



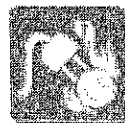
Types of Fire Extinguishers



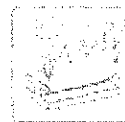
Class A extinguishers put out fires in ordinary combustible materials such as cloth, wood, rubber, paper, and many plastics.



Class B extinguishers are used on fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.



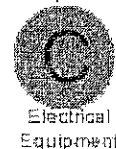
Class C extinguishers are suitable for use on fires involving appliances, tools, or other equipment that is electrically energized or plugged in.



Class D extinguishers are designed for use on flammable metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. These are typically found only in factories working with these metals.



Class K fire extinguishers are intended for use on fires that involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. These extinguishers are generally found in commercial kitchens, such as those found in restaurants, cafeterias, and caterers. Class K extinguishers are now finding their way into the residential market for use in kitchens.



There are also multi-purpose fire extinguishers - such as those labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C" - that can be used on two or more of the above type fires.

2. Is the fire at a point where it might still be controlled by a fire extinguisher?

Portable fire extinguishers are valuable for immediate use on small fires. They contain a limited amount of extinguishing material and need to be properly used so that this material is not wasted. For example, when a pan initially catches fire, it may be safe to turn off the burner, place a lid on the pan, and use an extinguisher. By the time the fire has spread, however, these actions will not be adequate. **Only trained firefighters can safely extinguish such fires.**

Use a fire extinguisher only if:

- You have alerted other occupants and someone has called the fire department;
- The fire is small and contained to a single object, such as a wastebasket;
- You are safe from the toxic smoke produced by the fire;
- You have a means of escape identified and the fire is not between you and the escape route; and
- Your instincts tell you that it is safe to use an extinguisher.

If *all* of these conditions are not present, you should NOT try to use a fire extinguisher. Alert other occupants, leave the building following your [home escape plan](#) (http://www.usfa.fema.gov/2007/05/01/using_the_american_safety_council/), go to the agreed upon meeting place, and call the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's home.

3. Am I physically capable of using the extinguisher?

Some people have physical limitations that might diminish or eliminate their ability to properly use a fire extinguisher. People with disabilities, older adults, or children may find that an extinguisher is too heavy to handle or it may be too difficult for them to exert the necessary pressure to operate the extinguisher.

Maintenance

Fire extinguishers need to be regularly checked to ensure that:

- The extinguisher is not blocked by furniture, doorways, or any thing that might limit access in an emergency.
- The pressure is at the recommended level. Some extinguishers have gauges that indicate when the pressure is too high or too low.
- All parts are operable and not damaged or restricted in any way. Make sure hoses and nozzles are free of insects or debris. There should not be any signs of damage or abuse, such as dents or rust, on the extinguisher.
- The outside of the extinguisher is clean. Remove any oil or grease that might accumulate on the exterior.

Additionally:

- Shake dry chemical extinguishers once a month to prevent the powder from settling or packing. Check the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Pressure test the extinguisher (a process called hydrostatic testing) after a number of years to ensure that the cylinder is safe to use. Find out from the owner's manual, the label, or the manufacturer when an extinguisher may need this type of testing.
- Immediately replace the extinguisher if it needs recharging or is damaged in any way.

Sound Decision Making, Training, Maintenance.

All are required to safely control a fire with an extinguisher. For this reason, **USFA recommends that only those trained in the proper use and maintenance of fire extinguishers consider using them when appropriate.** Contact your local fire department for information on training in your area.

Links of Interest

- [Consumer Product Recall: Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers](#) (http://www.usfa.fema.gov/2007/05/01/using_the_american_safety_council/)



Cooking Fire Safety

Many families gather in the kitchen to spend time together, but it can be one of the most hazardous rooms in the house if you don't practice safe cooking behaviors. Cooking equipment, most often a range or stovetop, is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Cooking equipment is also the leading cause of unreported fires and associated injuries.

Safe Cooking Behaviors

It's a recipe for serious injury or even death to wear loose clothing (especially hanging sleeves), walk away from a cooking pot on the stove, or leave flammable materials, such as potholders or paper towels, around the stove. Whether you are cooking the family holiday dinner or a snack for the children, practicing safe cooking behaviors will help keep you and your family safe.

Choose the Right Equipment and Use It Properly

- Always use cooking equipment tested and approved by a recognized testing facility.
- Follow manufacturers' instructions and code requirements when installing and operating cooking equipment.
- Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

Use Barbecue Grills Safely

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking food.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Use only outdoors! If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, barbecue grills pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to carbon monoxide.

Charcoal Grills

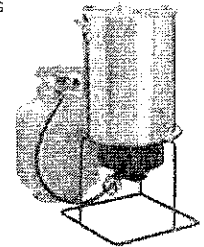
- Purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

Propane Grills

- Check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane quickly by releasing bubbles.

Product Safety Tip: Turkey Fryers

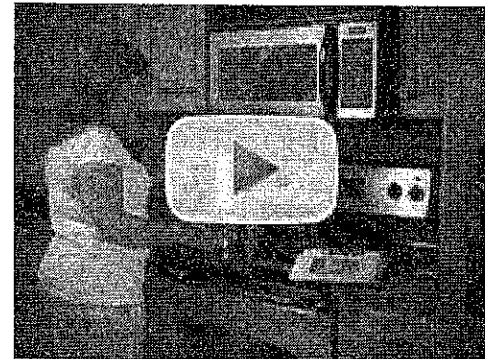
The delicious deep-fried turkey has quickly grown in popularity but safety experts are concerned that backyard chefs may be sacrificing fire safety for good taste.



Here's why using a deep-fryer can be dangerous

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/news/faq/>

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/news/faq/faq.asp?faq=product_safety/turkey_fryer



<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-safety/research/other-cooking/index.shtml>

Cooking Fire Safety Video Clips

Short, educational messages for safe home cooking to avoid fires and other burns.

- [Keep Things Away from Heat](#)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-safety/research/other-cooking/index.shtml>

- [Keep Kids Away from Cooking Areas](#)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-safety/research/other-cooking/index.shtml>

- [Prevent Scalds and Burns](#)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-safety/research/other-cooking/index.shtml>

- [Watch What You Heat](#)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-safety/research/other-cooking/index.shtml>

- [Know What to Do if There is a Fire](#)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-safety/research/other-cooking/index.shtml>

Radio on Fire Audio PSAs

This series addresses the top five fire-safety topics most frequently identified with home fire deaths: smoke alarms,

- If you determined your grill has a gas leak by smell or the soapy bubble test and there is no flame:
 - Turn off the propane tank and grill.
 - If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
 - If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached, limiting the potential for release of propane gas if the cylinder heats up. OPDs are easily identified by their triangular-shaped hand wheel.
- Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

escape plans, child fire safety, older adult fire safety (cooking and heating), and careless smoking. [Download Scripts and PSAs >> /http://www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/psas/](#)



http://www.usfa.fema.gov/propane/home_fire_prep/middle-substall/winter.shtml

Watch What You Heat

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- Stay alert! To prevent cooking fires, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy.

Keep Things That Can Catch Fire and Heat Sources Apart

- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Keep pets off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto the burner.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire if it comes into contact with a gas flame or electric burner.

If Your Clothes Catch Fire

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 to put out the fire. Immediately cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes and then seek emergency medical care.

Use Equipment for Intended Purposes Only

Cook only with equipment designed and intended for cooking, and heat your home only with equipment designed and intended for heating. There is additional danger of fire, injury, or death if equipment is used for a purpose for which it was not intended.

Protect Children from Scalds and Burns

- Young children are at high risk of being burned by hot food and liquids. Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove.
- Keep young children at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from any place where hot food or drink is being prepared or carried. Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.
- When young children are present, use the stove's back burners whenever possible.
- Never hold a child while cooking, drinking, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Teach children that hot things burn.

- When children are old enough, teach them to cook safely. Supervise them closely.

Prevent Scalds and Burns

- To prevent spills due to overturn of appliances containing hot food or liquids, use the back burner when possible and/or turn pot handles away from the stove's edge. All appliance cords need to be kept coiled and away from counter edges.
- Use oven mitts or potholders when moving hot food from ovens, microwave ovens, or stovetops. Never use wet oven mitts or potholders as they can cause scald burns.
- Replace old or worn oven mitts.
- Treat a burn right away, putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. If the burn is bigger than your fist or if you have any questions about how to treat it, seek medical attention right away.

Install and Use Microwave Ovens Safely

- Place or install the microwave oven at a safe height, within easy reach of all users. The face of the person using the microwave oven should always be higher than the front of the microwave oven door. This is to prevent hot food or liquid from spilling onto a user's face or body from above and to prevent the microwave oven itself from falling onto a user.
- Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven. They can cause a fire and damage the oven.
- Heat food only in containers or dishes that are safe for microwave use.
- Open heated food containers slowly away from the face to avoid steam burns. Hot steam escaping from the container or food can cause burns.
- Foods heat unevenly in microwave ovens. Stir and test before eating.

How and When to Fight Cooking Fires

- When in doubt, just get out. When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you do try to fight the fire, be sure others are already getting out and you have a clear path to the exit.
- Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.
- If you have a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. Unplug the appliance if you can safely reach the outlet.
- After a fire, both ovens and microwaves should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.

Nuisance Smoke Alarms

- Move smoke alarms farther away from kitchens according to manufacturers' instructions and/or install a smoke alarm with a pause button.
- If a smoke alarm sounds during normal cooking, press the pause button if the smoke alarm has one. Open the door or window or fan the area with a towel to get the air moving. Do not disable the smoke alarm or take out the batteries.
- Treat every smoke alarm activation as a likely fire and react quickly and safely to the alarm.

Related Topics

- [Statistical Reports: Cooking Fires](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/cooking.shtml)
- [Behavioral Mitigation of Cooking Fires](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/factservice/research/other/cooking-mitigation.shtml)

Links of Interest

- [National Fire Protection Association](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/oodbive.jsp?id=http://www.nifa.org/)
- [Safety Tips for Turkey Fryers](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/oodbive.jsp?id=http://www.fda.com/consumers/turkeys.html)

FIRE CAN ENGULF A HOME IN 60 SECONDS!

FIRE SAFETY AND PROTECTION TIPS

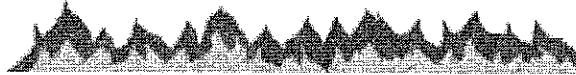
Click Here [GENERAL FIRE SAFETY AND PROTECTION TIPS](#)

Click Here [CONDUCT A FAMILY MEETING](#)

Click Here [BE PREPARED - PLAN AHEAD](#)

Click Here [ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR FIRE SAFETY](#)

Click Here [ENTER THE FIRE ESCAPE SYSTEMS STORE](#)



GENERAL FIRE SAFETY AND PROTECTION TIPS

Make sure all family members know what to do in the event of a fire. Draw a floor plan with at least two ways of escaping every room. Make a drawing for each floor. Dimensions do not need to be correct. Make sure the plan shows important details: stairs, hallways and windows that can be used as fire escape routes.

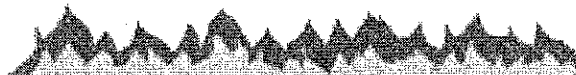
Test windows and doors—do they open easy enough? Are they wide enough. Or tall enough?

Choose a safe meeting place outside the house.

Practice alerting other members. It is a good idea to keep a bell and flashlight in each bedroom.

- [Enter the Fire Escape Systems Store](#)

[Return Top of Page](#)



CONDUCT A FAMILY MEETING

Conduct a family meeting and discuss the following topics:

- *Always sleep with the bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke out of bedrooms, giving you additional time to escape.*
- *Find a way for everyone to sound a family alarm. Yelling, pounding on walls, whistles, etc. Practice yelling "FIRE!"*
- *In a fire, time is critical. Don't waste time getting dressed, don't search for pets or valuables. Just get out!*
- *Roll out of bed. Stay low. One breath of smoke or gases may be enough to kill.*

- [Enter the Fire Escape Systems Store](#)

[Return Top of Page](#)



Practice evacuating the building blindfolded. In a real fire situation, the amount of smoke generated by a fire most likely will make it difficult to see.

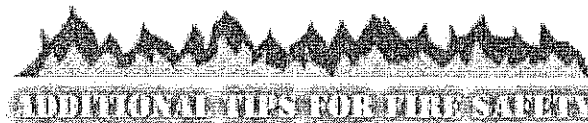
Practice staying low to the ground when escaping.

Feel all doors before opening them. If a door is hot, get out another way.

Learn to stop, drop to the ground, roll if clothes catch fire.

- [Enter the Fire Escape Systems Store](#)

[Return Top of Page](#)



Install smoke detectors

Check smoke detectors once a month and change the batteries at least once a year. Smoke detectors sense abnormal amounts of smoke or invisible combustion gases in the air. They can detect both smoldering and burning fires. At least one smoke detector should be installed on every level of a structure. Purchase smoke detectors labeled by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

Post emergency numbers near telephones.

Be aware that if a fire threatens your home, you should not place the call to emergency services from inside the home. It is better to get out and place the call to fire authorities from a safe location outside the home.

After a fire emergency

Give first aid where appropriate. Seriously injured victims should be transported to professional medical help immediately. Stay out of the damaged building. Return only when fire authorities say it is safe.

Make sure you have a safe fire escape method for all situations

You may have installed a very expensive home security system. But if you cannot escape the burning structure you have a false level of confidence.

Space Heaters Need Space

Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that may burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to sleep. Children and pets should always be kept away from them.

Smokers Need To Be Extra Careful

Never smoke in bed or when you are sleepy. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States.

Be Careful Cooking

Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep the handles of your pots turned inward so they do not over-hang the stove. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan and smother the flames, then turn off the burner.

Matches and Lighters are Dangerous

In the hands of a child, matches and lighters can be deadly! Store them where kids can't reach them, preferably in a locked area. Teach children that matches and lighters are "tools" and should only be used by adults.

Use Electricity Safely

If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords and don't overload extension cords. They should not be run under rugs. Never tamper with the fuse box or use the improper size fuse.

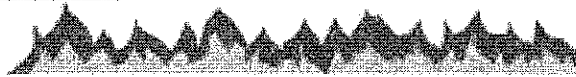
Cool a Burn

If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound under cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately!

Be Careful of Halogen Lights

If you have halogen lights, make sure they are away from flammable drapes and low ceiling areas. Never leave them on when you leave your home or office.

- [Enter the Fire Escape Systems Store](#)



Fire can engulf a house in 60 seconds!

Make sure you have a safe and quick method of escape!

Fire Escape Systems has a solution for you!

Regardless of the structure, Fire Escape Systems has a solution for you!

To learn more about safe fire escape ladders for your home, townhouse or office...



[Return Top of Page](#)