



# Home safety starts with fire safety

## 11 steps to protect your home and family

Did you know more than 350,000 home fires occur every year? In fact, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in a five-year period, house fires caused 2,620 deaths and \$6.9 billion in property damage. Bottom-line: fire prevention, and safety practices, save lives and homes. Please follow these practical tips to protect yours.

### Preparing your home:

- Use at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Know where the nearest exit is located.
- Keep fire extinguishers in your kitchen, garage, and other areas where hazardous materials may be stored or used. To open and use a fire extinguisher, use the following acronym: **PASS**.
  - **P**ull the pin
  - **A**im low at the base of the fire
  - **S**queeze the handle slowly
  - **S**weep the nozzle side to side
- Check and clean appliances regularly.
- Use caution with space heaters, wood stoves, and furnaces.
- Have your fireplace and chimney inspected annually.
- Be careful with lit candles and fire embers.

### Preparing your children:

Everyone needs to leave the home as fast as they can when a smoke alarm sounds. But when there are children in the home, here's how to prepare them.

- Have a family plan.
- Plan escape routes.
- Tell them not to hide from firefighters.
- Teach them to stop, drop, and roll if any part of their body catches on fire.



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