

Home Safety

In 2003, there were 388,500 reported home fires in the United States, resulting in 3,145 deaths, 13,650 injuries and \$5.9 billion in direct property damage. Nationwide, there was a civilian home fire death every 3 hours. Reduce your family's fire risk by taking smart precautions!

SAFETY TIPS:

KITCHEN:

- Keep dishtowels and potholders away from the stove area.
- Store matches, lighters and birthday candles out of children's reach.
- Never leave cooking food unattended on the stove, in the oven or even in the microwave. Be sure to clean the stove areas regularly, because grease can quickly build up and catch fire.

BATHROOM:

- Keep electrical appliances such as hair dryers and curling irons away from towels, tissues, toilet paper and magazines. Always unplug appliances after you use them.
- Store aerosol products, nail polish and polish remover away from heat sources.

BEDROOM:

- Replace mattresses made before 1973 (they can be fire hazardous).
- If possible, keep your child's bedroom door closed at night. This will slow the spread of smoke, heat and gases.
- Don't roll an electric blanket into a ball or fold it up while it's still turned on.
- Never smoke in bed or fall asleep with lit candles in the room.

FIREPLACE:

- Have your chimney cleaned at least once a year to keep it free of debris, which could cause a fire.
- Always keep a screen in front of the fireplace.
- Never burn trash, newspaper, or wrapping paper inside it.

LIVING ROOM:

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from walls, furniture and curtains.
- Don't run electrical cords under rugs; they could become damaged and set the carpet on fire.
- Use caution when lighting candles. Make sure candleholders are stable and kept away from furniture and curtains.

BASEMENT:

- Keep flammable liquids away from the furnace and other heat sources.
- Don't store old clothes or papers in the basement - they could easily ignite.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- Hot spots in your home consist of the following: kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, fireplace, living room and basement.