

Smoking

The number one cause of fatal fires in the United States is smoking materials. The leading causes of smoking-related fires, injury and death are the following: improperly discarded smoking materials, abandoned smoking materials, and misuse of smoking materials.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Provide large/deep ashtrays throughout any areas where smoking is permitted.
- Do a “house check” before retiring if smoking took place during the day.
- Dispose of used smoking materials and ashes in safe metal containers, by simply dousing in water or by flushing down the toilet.
- Post “no smoking” signs in areas where flammable liquid may be stored or used.
- Extinguish all smoking materials before beginning to pump gasoline.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Provide supervision for people in high-risk situations; the bedridden, chronically diseased, handicapped, heavy medicine, or alcohol users.
- Avoid smoking when drowsy, and NEVER smoke in bed.
- Check armchairs and sofas for lit embers and sparks after a person has been smoking – an ember can smolder for hours and burst into flames after the household has gone to bed.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- According to the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy, smoking materials are the number one cause of fatal fires in the U.S.
- Males (especially ages 75 and up) have a much higher death rate, which relates to their overall portion of the general population and the smoking population.
- Adults and the elderly are especially in danger from serious burn injury and possible death when smoking materials are used in combination with drugs, alcohol or certain prescription medications.
- The most common problem areas in the home include the living and entertainment areas.
- Falling asleep in the bedroom or in a favorite lounge chair can mean disaster when you have a lit cigarette in your hand.
- Flammable liquids in the garage, shop area or basement and improper use or discarded smoking materials can prove to be a deadly combination.
- Improper use or disposal of smoking materials in places of public assembly poses great danger to many people.
- A frequent site of burn injury to teens and young adults is at the gas pump.