

# Fire Prevention Tips

## Contents:

1. Fire Prevention Tips
2. Seasonal
3. Safety Tips
4. Smoke Alarms
5. Fire Hazards in the Home
6. Cooking Oil and Grease Fires: Put a Lid On It!
7. Quiz



# Fire Prevention Tips

How do fires begin? We all know fire is frightening when it starts but how does it begin? Well first you will need something that can burn such as clothes, books, bed, paper. This is known as fuel.

Then you will need something that will create heat such as match, lighter or candle. Then we have oxygen from the air. If the combination is right and we have fuel (paper) + heat (match) + oxygen and a chemical reaction we will get a fire. Very often from human influence.

If we take away one of those elements there will be no fire:

Wood + Match

Wood + Oxygen

Match + Oxygen

## Fires can start for many reasons:

Matches, lighters, candles, heating equipment, and electricity are just a few reasons, there are many others.

Answer the following questions to see if your home is safe from fire:

- Are matches and lighters out of children's reach?
- Is your stove cleaned and free from grease?
- Do you keep space heaters away from walls, beds, and anything that can burn?
- Do you keep a screen on the fireplace?
- Do you keep outdoor fireplaces off patios and away from combustibles? Is there water near by?
- Do you keep all exits clear of blue bags, toys and clutter?
- Do you keep candles in sturdy holders, away from drafts, curtains and combustibles? Ensure that all candles are extinguished before leaving the area.
- Do you regularly check to see if all electrical cords are in good repair and working order?
- Do you unplug small appliances when they are not in use?
- Do you clean dryer vents after use and turn off dryer before leaving the home?

## Halloween

- \* Purchase only costumes, wigs, and props labeled flame-resistant or flame retardant.
- \* Chose costumes that do not have layers, are fitting
- \* Have children carry a flashlight with them
- \* Keep dried flowers, crepe paper and cornstalks away from heat sources
- \* Avoid using candles for decoration
- \* When decorating your Jack-O-Lantern place a small flashlight in it to illuminate it.
- \* Keep exits clear of decorations

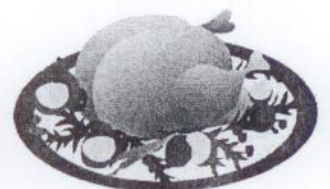


## Thanksgiving

- \* Turkey Fryers are under scrutiny recently as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., an independent product safety- testing organization, has decided not to certify, with their mark, any turkey fryer.

### Some of the National Fire Prevention Agency's concerns:

- \* When the turkey is placed in the hot oil, oil may spill onto the burner, creating a fire
- \* The units can easily tip over, spilling hot, scalding oil onto anyone or anything nearby
- \* Most units do not have automatic thermostat controls, so oil may heat until it catches fire
- \* The sides, lids and handles get extremely hot and may cause burns
- \* NFPA urges the use of cooking equipment that has been tested and approved by a recognized testing facility.





## Candles

- \* If you must use candles keep up high out of reach of children
- \* Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily and that are large enough to collect dripping wax
- \* Do not place lit candles in windows, or near curtains
- \* Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids
- \* Keep candle wicks trimmed
- \* Extinguish candles before leaving the house or going to bed
- \* Avoid carrying a lit candle
- \* Never use a candle for a light when checking pilot lights, or fueling equipment such as kerosene or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes



## Christmas Tree Safety

- \* When decorating Christmas trees always use safe tree lights
- \* All lights should be listed by a testing laboratory
- \* Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights
- \* Any string lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used
- \* Do not buy trees with needles that appear dry or are drooping
- \* Keep Christmas tree moist by daily watering
- \* Place tree in a sturdy stand and secure tree well
- \* Do not place candles on Christmas trees
- \* Never use electric lights on a metal tree
- \* Purchase a flame retardant artificial tree
- \* Do not leave tree lights on when leaving the home or going to bed
- \* Make sure your tree is away from any heat source, does not block exits and is close to an electrical outlet



## Dryer Safety

- \* Do not operate a dryer without a lint filter
- \* Clean lint filters before or after each use
- \* Clean lint from around the drum
- \* Have dryer plugged into proper outlet
- \* Keep the dryer area clear of combustibles
- \* Turn the dryer off when leaving home

## Barbeque Safety

- \* When using barbecues on decks leave sufficient space away from the house
- \* Remove grease or fat in trays below grill to prevent ignition
- \* If you are using a gas grill be sure the hose connection is tight and check hoses for leaks. Applying soapy water to the hoses will reveal any leaks.
- \* If you are using a charcoal grill only use charcoal starter fluid. Do not add starter fluid after coals have been lit.





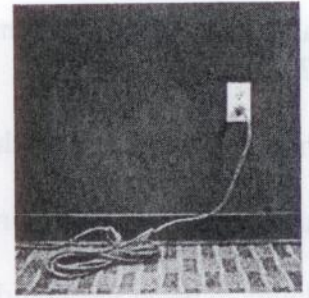


## Kitchen Safety

- \*Keep things that burn away from the cooking area such as dishtowels, and oven mitts.
- \*Clean any grease build-up from the stove, oven & exhaust fan regularly. Cooking grease & oil ignite easily & burn quickly.
- \*Keep pot handles turned inward, out of the reach of children & pets.
- \* Dress for fire safety in the kitchen. Don't wear loose fitting clothing while cooking, the clothing may touch a hot burner and catch on fire.
- \*Never leave cooking unattended. If you leave the home make sure the stove or oven is turned off.

## Electrical Cord Safety

- \*Avoid running extension cords under carpets or across doorways
- \*Avoid overloading outlets
- \*Replace loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices
- \*In homes with small children electrical outlets should have plastic safety covers
- \*Follow the manufactures instructions for plugging appliances.



## Safety Checklist

Have you installed fire detectors in bedrooms and hallways, and on each level of your house? Fire alarms double your chance of survival in a home fire!

Do you check fire alarm batteries every month and change them at least twice a year?

Do you keep emergency numbers by the phone?

Have you taught your children and babysitters how to use them?

Do you have family fire drills (using the alarm) to prepare the family for a real emergency?

Have you informed family members to get out of the house immediately if there is a fire and call the fire department from a neighbor's house?

Does everyone in your family know the number one rule in case of fire? Get everyone out of the house and do not go back inside!

Do your children have two methods of exit from your house and know how to use them?

Have you cleared debris and furniture from all exit routes?

Does your family know to feel all doors before exiting a room? If the door is hot, move out of the way and use an alternate exit.

In the event of a home fire, do you have an outdoor location where family members can meet?

Do children understand the concept of "stop, drop and roll"? (When clothes are on fire, stop, drop and roll back and forth, shielding face from fire with hands.)

In a fire, does your family know to "drop" to the ground and stay low, where air contains less smoke and is cooler?

Do you always stay nearby when you are cooking food? Careless cooking is the number one cause of house fires.

Is a fire extinguisher located near the stove? Ten feet away is ideal.

Do your children understand not to play with matches? One-quarter of all fire deaths occur because of a fire started by a child.

Do you periodically check and replace all worn electrical cords?

Have you removed all electrical cords from underneath rugs?

Are all flammable liquids stored away from the house and away from heat sources?

Do you always start lawn equipment at least 10 feet away from the place where it was refueled?

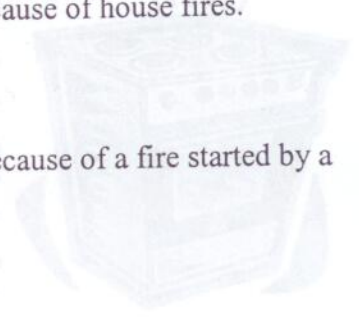
Do you have the fireplace and chimney checked annually to prevent a fire hazard?

Do you use dried wood in the fireplace? Damp wood causes creosote to build up, which can result in a chimney fire.

Do you know to never use liquid fuel in a fireplace or wood stove?

Do you always shut off space heaters before leaving the house, never use extension cords with heaters and make certain that the heaters are three feet away from anything that might burn?

If you have a child who repeatedly plays with fire, have you called your fire department? They can help.



Electrical Cord Safety

Fire Extinguisher

Fire Department

Fire Department

Fire Department



# Fire Hazards in the Home

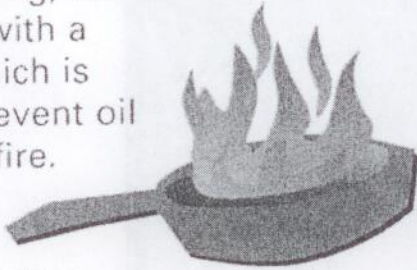




**FACT:**  
*Seven out of ten fires  
occur in the home.*

### **Kitchen**

- Remove pans from elements when not in use – you might accidentally turn on the wrong burner.
- Unplug kettles, frying pans and other appliances when not in use.
- Don't hang clothing above the stove to dry. It might fall on a burner and catch fire.
- When deep-frying, use a deep fat fryer with a thermostat, which is designed to prevent oil from catching fire. Don't use a regular stovetop pot or pan.
- Use safety matches, and keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher nearby in case of grease fires.



### **Living room**

- Use a fireplace screen to contain coals or flying sparks that can easily ignite rugs or furniture.

- Don't use extension cords in place of permanent wiring. Make sure you have enough electrical outlets to power your appliances.
- Use large, deep ashtrays. Check furniture for fallen cigarettes or embers before you go to bed, and make sure cigarette butts are out by placing them in a metal container.

### **Bedroom**

**N**ever smoke in bed. Many smokers die when they fall asleep and drop lit cigarettes in bedding.

### **Basement and attic**

- Remove combustibles from your basement and attic. They make it easier for a blaze to start, and once started, they add fuel to a fire.
- Have a maintenance person clean your furnace at least once a year and check all furnace safety controls. Chimney and flue connections should also be checked for leaks.
- Remove flammable liquids from the house.
- Remove oversized fuses. A 15-ampere fuse is normally used in homes. If in doubt, consult a qualified electrician. Have your wiring checked periodically.



Prince Edward Island  
Fire Fighters Association



## Plan for fire

- An hour of planning may save years of life. Practise fire drills with your family!
- Make sure your home has at least one smoke alarm on every floor. They will give you and your family time to escape in case of fire.
- Make sure everyone knows two ways out of each bedroom.
- A window can be an exit. Make sure storm windows and screens can be easily removed from the inside, if you need to escape a fire. Folding escape ladders may be needed in higher buildings. In an emergency, adults can lower children carefully out of second floor windows. Use caution when escaping down a stairway. It might become a chimney for smoke, hot gas and fire.
- Don't risk serious injury by jumping in panic from a high window. Stay in the room with the door closed and the window slightly open. Hang a sheet out the window to show rescuers your location. Sit on the floor to avoid breathing in smoke.
- A hot door is a warning. Feel the door before opening it and look to see if smoke is leaking in around it. Keep bedroom, kitchen and

basement doors closed at night to act as a barrier, in case of fire.

- Never go back into a burning building for any reason!

## Wood/pellet stoves and other solid fuel-burning appliances and accessories

**M**ake sure that you buy home heating appliances that have been certified by a recognized testing and certification agency, and meet or exceed the standard CAN/CSA B365. Contact your local fire department for additional information on the safe installation and use of solid fuel burning appliances and accessories, and for municipal code requirements.

**Remember!** In case of fire — no one should return to a burning building for pets, toys or clothes.

*Follow these guidelines to make your home safe for you and your family!*

*Do it today!*



Metro Fire Prevention  
Association



## Fire Prevention and Safety Quiz:

1. Which of the following is NOT a Halloween safety precaution?
  - a, costumes and wigs labeled flame-resistant
  - b, avoid using candles for decoration
  - c, keep exits clear of decoration
  - d, carve your pumpkin only at night
  
2. Which of the following is a false statement about Christmas tree safety?
  - a, it is safest to purchase a real tree
  - b, all lights should be listed by a testing laboratory
  - c, never use electrical lights on a metal tree
  - d, place tree in a sturdy stand and secure well
  
3. Which of the following should NOT be on your safety checklist?
  - a, check the fire alarm batteries every month and change them at least twice a year
  - b, keep emergency numbers by the phone
  - c, feel all doors before exciting a room, if hot use an alternative exit
  - d, make sure cupboards are properly stocked with food in case the house burns to the ground
  
4. Which of the following is NOT a safety precaution when barbequing?
  - a, when on the deck leave sufficient space from house
  - b, when using charcoal grill use charcoal starter fluid, and not until after coals have been lit
  - c, while barbequing inside remember to open the windows
  - d, remove grease or fat in trays below grill to prevent ignition
  
5. How many fires occur in the home?
  - a, 8 out of 20
  - b, 7 out of 10
  - c, 3 out of 12
  - d, 19 out of 20



## Fire Prevention and Safety Quiz Answers:

1. D

2. A- an artificial flame resistant tree is safest

3. D

4. C

5. B

