

# TOBACCO

## Fire Safety

Smoking is not only dangerous to your health, it is the number one cause of home fire deaths across the country. Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are preventable. If you or someone in your home smokes, use these tips to prevent a fire from happening in your home and be a fire-safe smoker. This information is provided by the U.S. Fire Administration.

### Be a Fire Safe Smoker



Smoke outside. Many things in your home can catch on fire if they touch something hot like a cigarette or ashes.

Put cigarettes out all the way. Don't walk away from lit cigarettes and other smoking materials. Put water on the ashes and butts to make sure they are really out before you put them in the trash.



Never smoke in bed. Mattresses and bedding can easily catch on fire, and you may fall asleep with a lit cigarette.

Never smoke around medical oxygen. Medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is near. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire.



Put the cigarette out in an ashtray or bucket with sand. Use ashtrays with a wide base so they won't tip over and start a fire.

Keep smoking materials away from children.

Some children are curious about fire.

Keep lighters and matches locked up in a high place. Never leave cigarette lighters or matches where children can reach them.



Do not smoke after taking medication that makes you tired. You may not be able to prevent or escape from a fire if you are not alert.

### Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Have working smoke alarms. You should have a smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. The sooner you know there is a fire, the more time you have to escape.

Replace smoke alarms after 10 years. Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

Test your smoke alarms once a month. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working. A smoke alarm with dead batteries is the same as not having a smoke alarm.

Make a plan. If there is a fire, you may have less than three minutes to get out of your home. Talk about what you should do to be safe. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

#### Sources:

[www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking)

[https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/fief/up\\_in\\_smoke\\_older\\_adults\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/fief/up_in_smoke_older_adults_brochure.pdf)