

Woodside Fire Protection District

Presents...

**SENIOR CITIZEN**  
***FIRE SAFETY***



# STATISTICS

- Each year in the United States, fires kill approximately 6,000 people and injure an additional 1,000,000.
- Property damage is estimated at \$7 billion per year.
- America's elder citizens, 65 and older, are three times more likely to die in home fires.



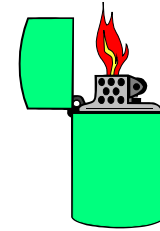
- As people age, their reflexes slow down so they have more trouble getting out fast.
- Older people are more likely to be on medication that makes them drowsy.
- The skin of older people is thinner and more vulnerable to fire.

# 5 LEADING CAUSES OF HOME FIRES

- Careless smoking
- Cooking
- Heating sources
- Arson
- Electrical distribution



# Smoking is leading cause of home fire deaths



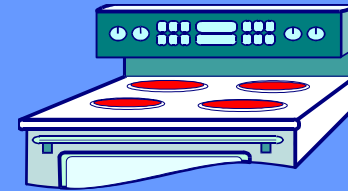
- Always use large non-tip ashtrays
- Wet butts and ashes before dumping them
- Check furniture for butts before going to bed or leaving home
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy, intoxicated or medicated
- Keep matches & lighters out of reach of grandchildren

# Cooking is the leading cause of home fires



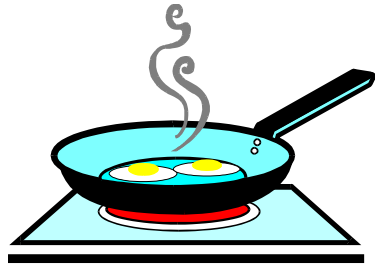
- Stove burners, ovens and microwaves can start fires
- Counter top appliances like toasters, coffee makers and toaster ovens can start fires

# Cooking Safety Tips



- *Never* cook while drowsy or medicated
- Roll back long or loose sleeves or fasten them with pins or elastic bands while cooking
- Keep pot holders, towels and curtains away from burners
- Keep a large lid near stove so you are prepared in the event of a grease fire





## If a grease fire starts

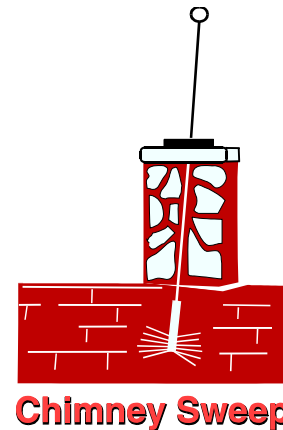
- If a grease fire starts on the stove top, carefully place the lid over the pan and turn the burner off. Leave the pan covered so the fire will be completely smothered.
- Never pour water on the fire or attempt to carry the pan outside.

# If an oven or microwave fire starts . . .

- Close the oven door and turn the oven off.
- Push the stop button on the microwave.
- Unplug the microwave.
- Leave the door closed until the fire goes out.
- Call the fire department for assistance.

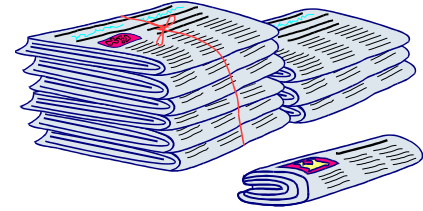
# Heating appliances are the 2nd leading cause of home fires

- Have your central heating system inspected and cleaned annually or when you suspect a problem.
- Keep wood-burning stoves clean of creosote buildup.



- Have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned and repaired as necessary.

# Heating equipment



- Always use a fireplace screen.
- Never burn paper or trash in fireplace.
- Allow all ashes to cool before disposing in a tightly covered metal container.
- Keep all combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- Place space heaters where they can't be tipped over and away from passageways.

# Preventing Arson Fires

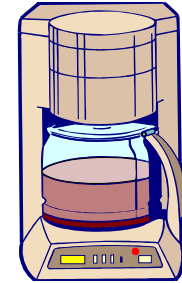


- Protect your home by eliminating convenient sources of fuel like trash and brush piles.
- Lock up cans of flammable liquids stored in the shed.
- Use outdoor lights to illuminate your property and discourage trespassers.

# Electrical Equipment

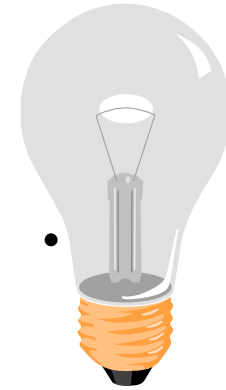
- Keep all electrical equipment in good working order.
- Use only one “heat producing” appliance per receptacle at a time.
- If a fuse “blows”, find out what overloaded the circuit and correct the problem.
- Replace fuses only with the appropriate size.

# Electrical continued . .



- Plug only one appliance into an extension cord.
- Don't run extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- Unplug appliances after each use.
- Check cords for cracks, frays, broken plugs and loose connections.

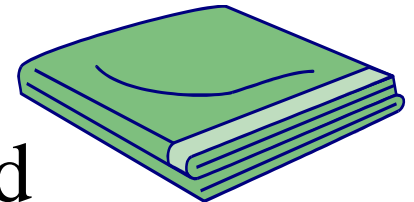
# Electrical continued . . .



- Use tape to attach cords to walls, never nails or staples.
- Use proper wattage light bulbs in all lamps.
- Make sure the bulbs don't sit too close to the lamp shade.
- Don't cover the vents of heat producing appliances like TV's, VCR's, stereo and computer equipment.

# Electrical continued . .

- Unplug cords from outlets that seem unusually warm or hot. Have an electrician check the wiring.
- Make sure all outlets and switches have coverplates.
- Don't tuck in electric blanket or add additional coverings over the top.
- Don't sleep with a heating pad turned on.



# Flammable Liquids



- Never smoke when you work with flammable liquids.
- Store in tightly sealed safety containers away from ignition sources.
- Never store in glass or plastic jugs.
- Don't fill containers to the top, leave room for the vapors to expand.

# Flammable liquids continued . . .

- Label all containers.
- Store containers outside of the house, preferably in a shed.

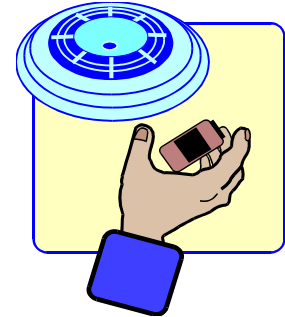
# Smoke Detectors



- 80% of all fire deaths take place in residences not equipped with a working smoke detector.
- Most fatal fires happen while people are asleep.
- Smoke detectors provide early warning of fires and allow time for escape.

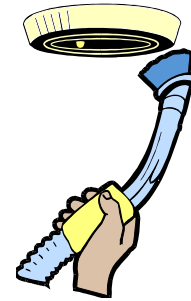
# How many smoke detectors?

- The absolute minimum is one detector for every level of the home.
- Older adults and people with mobility disabilities should have a smoke detector installed inside their sleeping areas in addition to the detectors outside their bedrooms.



# Smoke Detector Maintenance

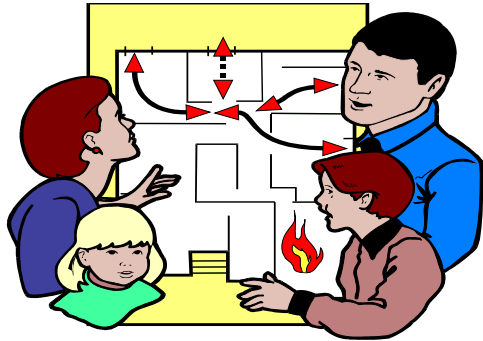
- Test each smoke detector monthly.
- Replace batteries once a year.
- Vacuum smoke detectors occasionally.
- Replace inoperable detectors immediately.
- Vacaville Fire Department has a program that can help you.





**Have an escape plan**

- Smoke detectors give you a head start in escaping, but do you know how to use that valuable time quickly and safely?
- Everyone needs a plan, but people with mobility disabilities are at great risk without a plan.



# Plan Your Escape

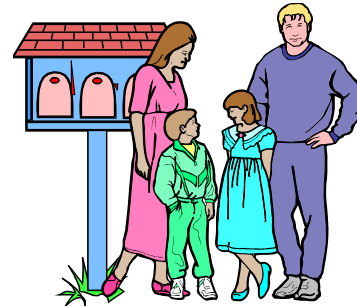
- Draw the floorplan of your home including all windows, doors and possible obstacles.
- Identify at least two ways out of each room and show them on your floorplan.
- If you have a mobility disability you should sleep on the first floor.
- Post your floorplan so visitors will know the escape routes.

# Escape planning



- Revise your escape plan if circumstances change.
- Keep the exit pathways clear of clutter and obstacles.
- Practice the plan and be sure each route on your list can really be used in an emergency.

# The Meeting Place



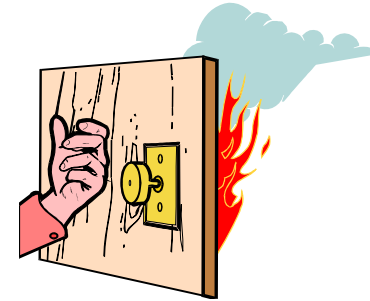
- Decide on a meeting place outside your home where every member of the household will meet after escaping.
- Mark the meeting place on your plan.
- Once you are at the meeting place, don't go back into your home for any reason.

# Survival Tips



- Sleep with the bedroom doors closed.
- Close the doors behind you along your escape route if you are leaving a burning building.
- Know how to recognize the sound of your smoke detector. If you have a hearing impairment, install a special strobe detector.

# Survival Tips



- Keep a whistle, a flashlight and your eyeglasses near your bed.
- Test doors before opening them during a fire.
- Use alternate routes when necessary.
- Crawl low under the smoke.
- Call the Fire Department after you have escaped and reported to your meeting place.