

Fire Safety

City of Lockport Fire Department



10 TIPS FOR FIRE SAFETY

1. INSTALL AND MAINTAIN SMOKE DETECTORS. Smoke detectors warn you of fire in time to let you escape. Install them on each level of your home and outside of each sleeping area. Follow the manufacturer's directions, and test once a week. Replace batteries twice a year, or when the detector signals (chirps) that the battery is low. Don't ever take the battery out for other uses!

2. PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE. If fire breaks out in your home, you must get out fast. With your family, plan two ways out of every room. Fire escape routes must not include elevators which might take you right to the fire! Choose a meeting place outside where everyone should gather. Once you are out, stay out! Have the whole family practice the escape plan at least twice a year.

3. SPACE HEATERS NEED SPACE. Keep portable space heaters at least 3 feet (1 meter) from paper, curtains, furniture, clothing, bedding, or anything else that can burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed, and keep children and pets well away from them.

4. SMOKING NEEDS WATCHING. Carelessly discarded cigarettes cause tens of thousands of home fires every year. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy! Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers, and put water on the butts before discarding them. Before going to bed, check under and around sofa cushions for smoldering cigarettes.

5. BE CAREFUL COOKING. Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles, and don't leave cooking unattended. Keep your pot's handles turned inward so children won't knock or pull them over the edge of the stove. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames, then turn off the burner.

6. A MATCH IS A TOOL FOR ADULTS. In the hands of a child, matches or lighters are extremely dangerous. Store them up high where kids can't reach them, preferably in a locked cabinet. And teach your children from the start that matches and lighters are tools for adults, not toys for kids. If children find matches, they should tell an adult immediately.

7. USE ELECTRICITY SAFELY. If an appliance smokes or begins to smell unusual, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Check all your electrical cords and replace any that are cracked or frayed; and don't overload them or run them under rugs. Remember that fuses and circuit breakers protect you from fire; don't tamper with the fuse box or use fuses of an improper size.

8. COOL A BURN. If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound in cool water for 10 to 15 minutes to ease the pain. Do not use butter on a burn, as this could prolong the heat and further damage the skin. If burn blisters or chars, **see a doctor immediately.**

9. STOP, DROP, AND ROLL. Everyone should know this rule; if your clothes catch fire, **don't run!** Stop where you are, drop to the ground, and roll over and over to smother the flames. Cover your face with your hands to protect your face and lungs.

10. CRAWL LOW UNDER SMOKE. If you encounter smoke using your primary exit, use your alternate route instead. If you must exit through smoke, clean air will be several inches off the floor. Get down on your hands and knees, and crawl to the nearest safe exit.