



Homeland
Security

FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

CARELESS SMOKING

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. The U.S. Fire Administration offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference for you and your community.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

Did you know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Careless smoking is the second leading cause of fire deaths.
- Deaths due to fires caused by careless smoking are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

For more information on how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths, please contact your local fire department on a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

CARELESS SMOKING

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- Never smoke in bed. Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Don't put ashtrays on the arms of sofas or chairs.
- Use deep ashtrays and soak ashes in water before disposal.
- Don't leave cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended. Put out all smoking materials before you walk away.
- If you begin to feel drowsy while watching television or reading, extinguish your cigarette or cigar.
- Close a matchbook before striking and hold it away from your body. Set your lighter on "low" flame.
- If smokers have visited, be sure to check the floor and around chair cushions for ashes that may have dropped accidentally.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan. In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke. Get out. Stay out.