



Homeland
Security

FIGHT FIRE WITH FACTS

SENIORS & FIRE

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.
- Americans over the age of 65 are one of the groups at highest risk of dying in a home fire.
- People age 65-75 are twice as likely as the general population, 75-85 are three times as likely, and 85+ are four and one-half times as likely to be killed in a house fire.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half.

Visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/50Plus for more information on seniors and fire safety. Contact your local fire department to learn how you can help prevent fires and fire deaths by calling a non-emergency number or the U.S. Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or visit www.usfa.dhs.gov or www.ready.gov.

SENIORS & FIRE

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.
- The kitchen is a high danger zone for fire, so be extra cautious when cooking. Remember not to leave cooking food unattended and don't wear loose clothing when cooking.
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Double-check the kitchen to be sure the oven and all small appliances are turned off before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Never smoke in bed. Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Keep flammable materials, such as drapes and clothing at least three feet away from your heater.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- In case of a fire, crawl or stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke. Get out. Stay out.