



BUSY MOM'S Guide to Home Fire Safety

Children & Home Fires

QUICK STATS

- Every 80 seconds in the U.S., a home catches fire.
- Home fires kill nearly 4,000 people a year.
- Kitchens and bedrooms are the most common places where home fires start.
- One baby or child dies almost every day in a home fire. Of the nearly 600 children ages 14 and under that die annually in residential fires, 56 percent are ages 4 and under.
- Two-thirds of home fires that kill children occur in homes without a working smoke alarm.



Here are five things you can do to make your home immediately safer.

- 1.** Throw away all matches. Run cool water over them before you empty them into the trash. Purchase a child-safe lighter instead; lock it away when it is not in use.
- 2.** Talk to your kids about home fire safety. Make sure they know two ways out of every room. Tell them where to meet outside the home when a fire starts.
- 3.** Test all smoke alarms to make sure they are working. More than half of home fire fatalities occur in homes without working smoke alarms.
- 4.** Make sure all doors and pathways are clear. Make sure all windows and doors open easily for quick exit.
- 5.** Make sure there is at least three feet of space between a space heater or candle and anything that can burn. Turn off space heaters and extinguish all candles before leaving a room or going to sleep.

Talk to Your Kids About Fire

Start a dialogue with your kids. Here's how to get started:

"If a fire starts, get out of the house right away. Stay low and crawl to the door."

"If there's a fire, we'll meet outside in front of the maple tree so we know everyone is safe."

"Smoke is dangerous. Stay low and crawl to an exit."

"Don't play with matches. If you find matches or lighters, bring them to an adult immediately."

"Don't hide from firefighters. It may seem scary if there's a fire and they come in wearing their hats and masks, but they're here to help us get to safety."

GETTING OUT

- Teach your family two ways out of every room.
- Show your children how to open locks on all windows and doors.
- Teach your kids to feel doors before opening them. Tell them to find another way out of the room if the door is hot.
- Find a place to meet outside the home.
- Call the fire department after you escape.

Fire-Safety Checklist:

Purchase and install as many of these items as possible to increase your chances of safe escape:

- SMOKE ALARM & 9-VOLT BATTERIES**
 - Install a smoke alarm on every floor of your home and inside every bedroom.
 - Check once a month and replace batteries as needed.
- FIRE EXTINGUISHER**
 - Have one or more in your home.
- ESCAPE LADDER**
 - Install these in all upstairs bedrooms
- FLAME-RESISTANT MATTRESS & BOX SPRING COVER**
 - Protect your mattresses from the spread of an open flame
- AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM**
 - Consider installing this feature in your home for added safety

FOR MORE RESOURCES:

Visit www.firedefendersystem.com for more home fire-safety information and links.