

Fire Prevention Tips

By Chris Urquhart

October is Fire Safety Month! Let's talk about fire safety in manufactured homes. If buying or renting a manufactured home is in your future, make sure you keep fire safety in mind.

By following a few tips and knowing the facts and the safety requirements for manufactured homes, you can help keep your family safe:

Choose a home build after 1976 that has the HUD label certifying that it meets certain minimum safety standards.

Be sure your home has enough smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and in or near the family/live room area(s). For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Have a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place. Make sure all ways out of the home are easy to use. Practice your fire drill at least twice a year.

Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

Consider having a licensed electrician inspect the electrical system to be sure it is safe and meets the applicable National Electrical Code requirements.

Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.

Have smokers smoke outside the home. Provide large, non-tip ashtrays and empty them frequently. Douse butts with water before throwing away.

FACT: Smoke alarms are missing in half of all manufactured home fires. Since they are required to be sold with smoke alarms, this may mean people are removing them.



HEAT SENSE. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Buy space heaters with automatic shut-off switches. Turn off portable space heaters before falling asleep or when leaving a room.

Never leave a lit candle unattended. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep. Keep gasoline, charcoal lighter and other flammable liquids locked in an outdoor shed. Never store items under the home.

Store firewood away from the house. It may take a few minutes each month to check out your smoke alarms and to make sure that flammable items are stored properly, but if it saves your life it was well worth the time and effort!

Remember, you have a local fire brigade but you really don't want them at your house!

Fire Prevention Week Quiz

Here's a 14 question quiz which you can use as an educational tool for youth and all members of your family. It's been developed by the National Fire Prevention Association. You can also take a couple a minutes and do the quiz online by visiting: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fire-prevention-week-quiz>

You could have less than 2 minutes to escape a home fire from the time a smoke alarm sounds.

- True
- False

A closed door may slow the spread of smoke and fire. If you sleep with your bedroom door closed, you need:

- Three ways out of the room;
- A smoke alarm inside the room that is interconnected to the other smoke alarms in the home;
- Strobe lights inside the bedroom that are powered by battery
- All of the above.

If a person's home is burning, when would it make sense to go back into the home after already getting outside?

- To save a person or pet
- To gather important documents To try to put out the fire
- Never go back into a burning home for any reason

How often should you practice your home fire escape plan?

- Once a month
- Once a year
- Twice a month
- Twice a year

More than 2 of every 5 reported home fires start where?

- Living room or den
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Chimney

Once you are safely outside the home, you should do what?

- Call the fire department
- Stay at your meeting place
- Wait for the fire department to arrive
- All of the above

During a fire in a typical building, you need to:

- React immediately, get outside and stay outside
- Investigate the problem, get outside and stay outside
- Wait for someone in authority to tell you what to do
- Take care of yourself, run and get outside

The best way to control a home fire before the fire department arrives is to have what?

- A working fire extinguisher
- A garden hose
- Home fire sprinklers
- All of the above

How many home fire deaths result from fires with no working smoke alarms?

- One of every three (33%)
- Two of every four (50%)
- Three of every five (60%)
- Four of every five (80%)

In the U.S., from 2010-2014, there was an annual average of 2,520 fire deaths. What percentage of these deaths occurred in 1- and 2-family homes?

- 54%
- 64%
- 74%
- 84%

When you enter a public building (like a restaurant, school, work or social club), how should you plan for an emergency?

- Find exits, check for fire extinguishers, find out how many people are in the building, and stay with family or friends
- Call the local fire marshal, look for smoke alarms and fire sprinklers, and find exits
- Find exits, check for clear exit paths, plan an outside meeting place and have a communication plan
- Have a communication plan, look for smoke alarms, look for the local fire marshal, and plan an outside meeting place

What are the important parts of a home fire escape plan?

- Working smoke alarms, one way out of each room, and an outside meeting place
- Working smoke alarms, two ways out of each room, and an outside meeting place
- Working CO alarms, two ways out of each room, and an outside meeting place
- Working smoke alarms, cell phone and an outside meeting place

A good outside meeting place would be a...

- Tree
- Car
- Bike
- Trash barrel

What is the leading cause of home fires?

- Smoking materials
- Heating
- Unattended cooking
- Electrical

Answers to the quiz are printed on Page 11.



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Their commitment, dedication and level of professionalism benefits so many in our community.

During this month and throughout the year, we extend our sincere thanks.

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