

# 10 Tips For Fire Safety

## Eliminate home fire hazards

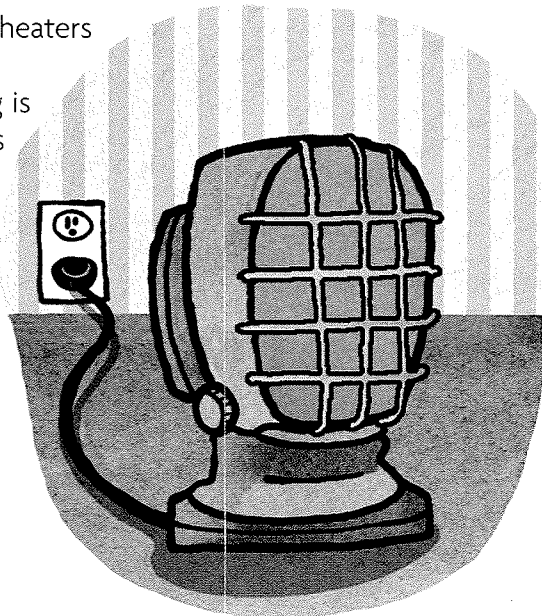
### 1. Keep an eye on the stovetop

Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven. Always have a lid nearby to slide over a pan in case of fire. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires—the majority of stovetop fires happen because of unattended cooking.



### 2. Give space heaters space

Keep fixed and portable space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Heating is the leading cause of home fires during the winter months of December, January, and February.



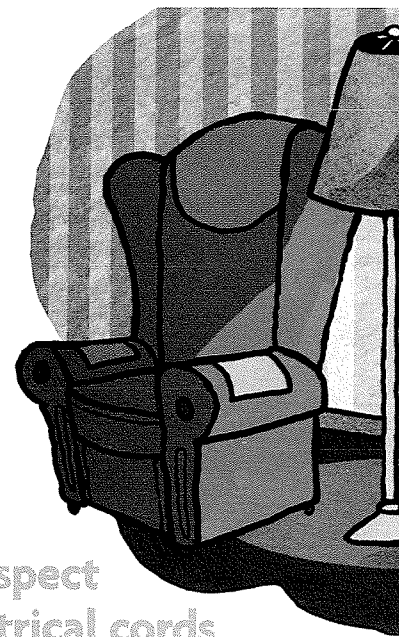
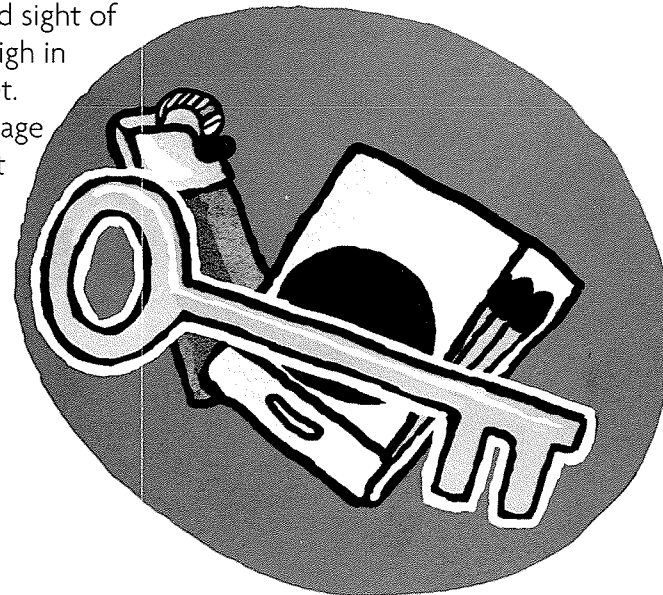
### 3. Be cautious when smoking

Use large, non-tip ashtrays, and soak butts and ashes before dumping them into a wastebasket. Never smoke in bed or when sleepy, intoxicated, or on medication that makes you sleepy. Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths and the third leading cause of home fire injuries.



### 4. Keep matches and lighters out of reach

Keep matches and lighters out of the reach and sight of children – up high in a locked cabinet. Children under age six are the most likely to start fires while playing with matches and lighters.

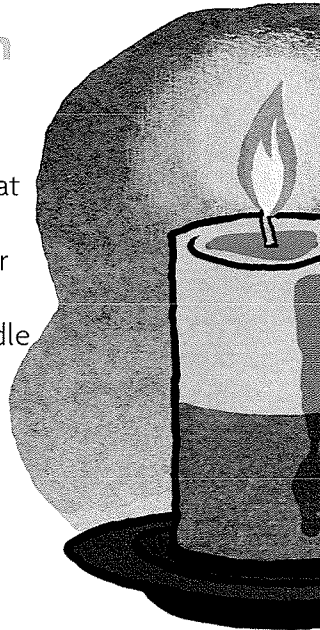


### 5. Inspect electrical cords

Inspect electrical cords to make sure they are not pinched behind furniture, under rugs, or stretched. Replace cords that are cracked, frayed, have broken plugs, or loose connections. Electrical distribution equipment is the fourth leading cause of home fires and the fifth leading cause of home fire deaths.

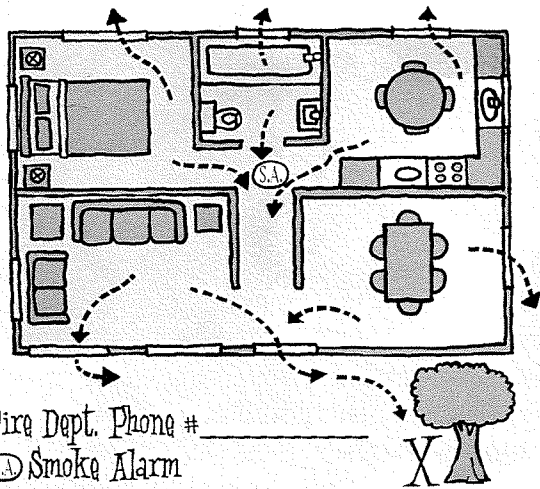
### 6. Be vigilant when using candles

Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn and put them out when you leave the room or go to sleep. Over the past decade, the number of candle fires has almost tripled.



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## 7. Have a home fire escape plan



Make a home fire escape plan and practice your plan at least twice a year so everyone knows what to do in a fire emergency.

## 8. Install smoke alarms

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Make sure everyone knows the sound of the alarm. If you sleep with bedroom doors closed, install interconnected alarms in the bedrooms so when one sounds, they all sound.



## 9. Test smoke alarms

Test alarms once a month and replace their batteries once a year, or when an alarm “chirps” to tell you its battery is low. Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old. Replace smoke alarms that use long-life (10-year) batteries when the alarm chirps or fails to respond to periodic testing. The batteries in these units cannot be replaced.



## 10. Crawl low under smoke

If you must escape through smoke, crawl low on your hands and knees to your exit, keeping your head one to two feet above the floor where the air is cleaner.



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