



SECURALERT

FIRE SAFETY



October is National Fire Prevention Month in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire that occurred on October 9, 1871.

FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY



Did you know that more than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and approximately 20,000 are injured?

Practice Fire Safety

An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire. It's not a question of luck. It's a matter of practicing and planning ahead.

Home Fire Safety Tips

General Tips

- *Install and Maintain Smoke Detectors* Smoke detectors warn you of fire in time to let you escape. Install them on each level of your home and outside of each sleeping area. Follow the manufacturer's directions, and test once a week. Replace batteries twice a year (in October and May), or when the detector chirps to signal that the battery is dead. Don't ever take the battery out for other uses!
- *Space Heaters Need Space* Keep portable space heaters at least 3 feet from paper, curtains, furniture, clothing, bedding, or anything else that can burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed, and

keep children and pets well away from them.

- *Have a Home Evacuation Plan* If fire breaks out in your home, you must get out fast. With your family, plan two ways out of every room. Fire escape routes must not include elevators, which might take you right to the fire! Choose a meeting place outside where everyone should gather. Once you are out, stay out! Have the whole family practice the escape plan at least twice a year.
- *Cool a Burn* If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound in cool water for 10 to 15 minutes to ease the pain. Do not use butter on a burn, as this could prolong the heat and further damage the skin. If burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately.
- *Crawl Low Under Smoke* If you encounter smoke using your primary exit, use your alternate route instead. If you must exit through smoke, clean air will be several inches off the floor. Get down on your hands and knees, and crawl to the nearest safe exit.