

# **Fire Prevention/ Fire Safety**



Fire Safety and Fire Prevention are very important, but very different. The Dictionary defines safety as, the condition of being safe, freedom from danger or harm, or a device to prevent an accident. Prevention is defined as the act of preventing, to stop or hinder or to keep from happening.

I will discuss fire prevention. With fire prevention, there is both what to do to keep a fire from starting and what to do if a fire starts, and how to get in under control. To understand the importance of fire prevention in your home, I will go room to room and give examples of prevention.

Most fires start in the kitchen. There are many dangerous things in a kitchen. A stove is the most dangerous appliance in your home. While cooking, you are either using gas or electricity to cook. Often foods are fatty and collect oil at the bottom of the pan. While heating the oil, if you are not careful, the oil can overheat and start a fire. If this happens you must be ready to react quickly to keep the fire under control. First, you must use a fire extinguisher, specifically made for oils and spray over the pot until the fire is out. If you do not have a fire extinguisher, you must first cover the pan, to keep air from getting into the fire making it spread. Take the pan off the burner, so it can cool down. If the fire is out of control, get out of the house as fast as you can and call the fire department. That is the worst case scenario. Now I am going to tell about how to keep a fire from starting.

In the kitchen, the areas you need to watch out for are, the stove, the garbage disposal, the toaster, and the microwave. With the stove, you want to keep the handles of your pots and pans facing away from you, towards the outside of the stove. This way you don't have to reach over the flame or heat, and you will not knock over the pan into the heat. Always supervise the stove when heating food, and never walk away for an extended period of time. The garbage disposal is not a big fire hazard, but it should never be left running for a long time, and never use it without running the water into the disposal, so it doesn't over heat. The toaster is a very big fire hazard in the kitchen. Never leave the toaster while it is being used. It only takes a second for the toast to catch fire. The microwave is the same way, it can catch fire quickly if it overheats. Keep towels away from any appliance in the kitchen. If they get too close to the heat, they can catch fire.

In the living room, you may have a fireplace. Make sure your fireplace is clean from ashes, too many ashes can cause a lot of smoke and possibly a widespread fire. If you burn candles, keep them away from any flame and push them back from the edge of the shelf or table. If the candle falls over, it may catch the carpet or curtains on fire. Never leave a candle unattended. Make sure you blow them out before you leave the house or go to bed. At Christmas time, the Christmas tree can be very dangerous. Never let your live tree dry out. Don't plug too many light sets together. Follow the directions on the package, and don't overload the plugs.

In the family room, keep extension cords out of the way. Don't put too many plugs in one outlet. If you have too much electricity in one plug, it can short and cause a fire. Check all cords and plugs, if they are frayed, replace the cord, it can cause a fire. Turn the television off when not in use, it also can overheat.

In the bathroom, you may not think there are, but there are a lot of fire hazards. If you use a hair dryer, make sure it is in good working order and not too old. Hairdryers get very hot and can quickly overheat. If a girl in the family uses a curling iron, never leave the curling iron unattended. When working around water, make sure the power cord does not touch the water. It will not probably not cause a fire, but it can electrocute somebody. If using candles in the bathroom, follow the directions listed earlier.

If you are working in the garage, power tools, oil, gasoline are all very dangerous. If you spill any oil or gasoline, clean it up so it does not catch fire. Do not leave power tools running without supervision. Do not tangle the cord, it may break down the cord and cause it to fray.

Finally, in the laundry room, make sure the dryer is clean from lint and dust. A dryer gets very hot and if it has a lot of lint, it can heat up and catch fire. Before you go to bed or leave the house, turn off the dryer.

I chose fire prevention, because it is used every day and can save your life if used right. I think about fire a lot, and I want to make sure our house is safe from fire hazards. If these simple rules are followed, anybody can prevent a fire.