



**FIRE  
PREVENTION**

Did you know that during 2007-2011, roughly 1 of every 320 homes had a reported house fire per year? But luckily, there are things you can do to make sure a fire doesn't happen in your home. Kitchen safety, evacuation plans and smoke alarms, and not leaving things unattended are just a few things that can prevent fires.

Kitchen safety is one very important thing you can do to prevent a fire in your home. If a grease fire were to happen in your home, don't put water on it! If you can, put the lid on the pot. After 30 seconds of attempting to stop the fire, call 911. Also, be sure to keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen in case a fire did happen. If you are cooking food on the stovetop, don't leave the room. A fire could start and you wouldn't even know it because you weren't in the room! Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, so be sure to practice good kitchen habits.

Another very important thing to do is have smoke alarms and an evacuation plan. Change the batteries on your smoke alarms twice a year. Make sure to test them once a month, too. Smoke alarms wake you up or alert you when there is a fire. Also, make sure that you know at least three ways out of your house. You need all three ways because if a fire were to be blocking one of your ways out, you need another option. Tell your family members that the family needs an escape plan. Once you have one, practice it once each season. You will be prepared for a fire once you have a plan. Smoke alarms and an evacuation plan can save your life, so be sure you have both of them.

Leaving things unattended can lead to house fires, as well. If you leave matches unattended, a pet or younger child in the family could find them and start a fire. Leaving candles lit is also dangerous. If the candle would fall over, it would spread to the objects around it and eventually engulf your house in flames. Overloading outlets is also dangerous. Try to plug only one thing in an outlet at a

time. If you plug many things into one outlet, there could be sparks, which cause fire. Leaving things unattended can be very dangerous, so be sure that you are always staying safe and being responsible.

To conclude, there are many things that you can do to prevent house fires. Kitchen safety, evacuation plans and smoke alarms, and not leaving things unattended are just a few things that you can do. Be the hero in your family by knowing how to prevent house fires!