

## Common Fire Causes

1. Unattended Cooking
2. Unattended Candles
3. Discarded Smoking Materials
4. Children Playing with Matches and Lighters
5. Faulty Electrical Equipment
6. Heating Equipment
7. Arson

Most fires are caused by careless behavior. Stay sober, awake and aware when smoking, cooking and using candles!

**Install Smoke Alarms & Test Monthly!**

**Develop & Practice Your Home Fire Escape Plan!**

**Call 9-1-1 in an Emergency!**



Devastation caused by a Kitchen Fire

## Fire Facts

1. In 2005, nationwide there were 1,602,000 fires causing 3,030 civilian deaths and over \$10 billion in property damage.\*
2. In 2006, within the City of Madison there were 529 fire incidents causing 3 civilian death and nearly \$2,256,675 million in property damage.
3. In 2005, nationwide 78% of all structure fires occurred in residential properties with a fire occurring on average every 80 seconds.\*

\*NFPA's *Fire Loss in the United States during 2005*, September 2006, by M.J. Kater, Jr.



## Home Fire Safety Guide

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# Home Fire Safety Guide



**Home Fires Are Preventable - Be Fire Safe!**

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# Home Fire Safety Guide

## Kitchen Fire Safety

1. Never leave cooking unattended.
2. Keep cooking areas clean and free of clutter.
3. Turn pot and pan handles in and keep out of reach from children and pets.
4. Don't wear loose fitting clothes that can catch on fire.

## Candle Fire Safety

1. Never leave burning candles unattended.
2. Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
3. Use sturdy, non-combustible candle holders.
4. Place on sturdy surface out of reach from children and pets.
5. Keep candles away from other combustible materials like window curtains and decorative materials.

## Smoking Fire Safety

1. Never smoke in bed or when feeling drowsy.
2. Smoking and alcohol don't mix...it's a dangerous combination!
3. Discard ashes in a non-combustible ash tray.
4. Use water to cool down ashes before discarding them in a wastebasket or discard the ashes in the toilet.
5. Beware of hidden smoldering embers that may have fallen in between cushions of a chair or sofa.

## Matches & Lighter Safety

1. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
2. Store matches and lighters up high, out of reach from children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

3. Teach children the hazards of lighters and matches and that these things are tools, not toys.
4. Teach children that if they find matches or a lighter to tell an adult immediately.

## Electrical Safety

1. Inspect electrical cords for damage and replace damaged equipment that smells, smokes, or overheats.
2. Do not place electrical cords under rugs where damage can be hidden and make sure cords are not pinched between the wall and any furniture.
3. Do not overload electrical outlets, and where necessary, use power strips with proper overload protection.
4. Install GFCI outlets in home areas where water is used (i.e., bathrooms, kitchens, etc.).

## Heating Equipment Safety

1. When using space heaters, keep all combustible materials at least 3 feet away from the heater and always turn the heater off when leaving.
2. Space heaters are for temporary use only, don't use them to supplement a regular heating system.
3. Never use a stove, oven, or grill to heat your home.
4. Have your home heating equipment (furnace, fireplace, etc.) inspected annually by a qualified technician.

## Smoke Alarms

1. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and either inside individual bedrooms or adjacent to bedroom areas.
2. Test smoke alarms once a month.
3. Never remove the batteries for any purpose other than to install a new one.
4. Replace batteries at least once a year or when the alarm "chirps" indicating a low battery.
5. Consider installing an automatic home sprinkler system!

## Home Fire Escape Plan

1. Develop a floor plan of your home - identifying all exits (doors and windows) and two ways out of each room.
2. Keep doors closed to help contain the fire and minimize smoke from spreading throughout your home.
3. Define an outside meeting place (e.g., neighbors or tree) where everyone can safely meet.
4. Remember to call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.
5. Practice your escape plan so that everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

## Crawl Low Under Smoke

1. Remember that in a fire, heat and smoke rise.
2. If you have to escape through smoke, crawl low under the smoke keeping your head just off the floor area where the air is cleaner and cooler.

## Stop - Drop & Roll

If your clothes catch on fire:

1. **Stop**—don't run!
2. **Drop** to the ground & cover your face
3. **Roll** back and forth to smother the flames

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