



## Fire Safety

### Statistics

Deaths from fires and burns are the fifth most common cause of unintentional injury deaths in the United States (CDC 2005) and the third leading cause of fatal home injury (Runyan 2004). The United States mortality rate from fires ranks fourth among the 25 developed countries for which statistics are available (USFA 2007).

- On average in the United States in 2006, someone died in a fire about every 162 minutes, and someone was injured every 32 minutes (Karter 2007).
- Four out of five U.S. fire deaths in 2006 occurred in homes (Karter 2007).
- In 2006, fire departments responded to 412,500 home fires in the United States, which claimed the lives of 2,620 people (not including firefighters) and injured another 12,925, not including firefighters (Karter 2007).
- Most victims of fires die from smoke inhalation and not from burns (Hall 2002).
- Fires started by lighted tobacco products, principally cigarettes, constitute the leading cause of residential fire deaths. (USFA 2006)
- Cooking equipment, most often a range or stovetop is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. (USFA 2007).



### Prevention

To help prevent fire deaths and injuries

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on every floor of your home
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside every sleeping area
- Never smoke in bed
- Have all fuel-burning appliances & fireplaces, professional inspected every year
- Don't wear loose-fitting clothing with long sleeves near stoves or other heat producing appliances
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials
- Store combustibles away from all heat-producing appliances
- Establish and practice an emergency fire escape plan

Sources: *Preventive Information*  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

*Statistical Information*  
FireSafety.Gov for Citizens: <http://www.firesafety.gov>