

Fire Safety & Preparedness

Get Out Alive and Survive

By the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal

Fire is a hot, fast and deadly element. Having an emergency plan and practicing fire drills are the best defenses in the event of a fire.

If you are caught in a fire situation, practice and remember these fire safety tips so you can “Get Out Alive and Survive.”



- Feel the door. If the door is hot, don't open it. Go to a window and call for help. If the doorknob is cool, open cautiously.
- Get out of the building before phoning for help.
- Don't look for other people or pets or try to gather up items. Knock on doors as you leave. Yell “FIRE” as you leave. Do not stop or stray from your exit path as you leave.
- Crawl low to the floor. This smoke can make it impossible to see. Chemicals from smoke can be deadly in seconds. Heat and gases rise. The freshest air is closest to the floor.
- Close the door behind you. You may keep the fire from spreading and you might protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage.
- If you can't get out, get someone's attention. Call the fire department and give them your location. Close and seal your door with clothes or towels to try to keep the smoke out. Hang a sheet from the window, but keep the window closed if smoke is coming in from a lower level. Yell and scream for help.

Before a Fire

- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and inside each bedroom.
- Test smoke detectors monthly.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year (for example, every December and every June). Mark your calendar to remind yourself.
- **Make a home fire escape plan.** Every room should have two escape routes. Practice your plan. Have unannounced fire drills.
- Designate a meeting place outside of the home where all household members are to gather and be accounted for.

Safety Inspection Checklist

A residential fire occurs in Ohio every 30 minutes. How safe is your home? Conduct a Home Safety Inspection for fire and safety hazards. Every box you check indicates a YES response, and a positive fire safety situation. Every unchecked box indicates a NO response and points to a potential fire hazard that needs to be corrected.

<p>Smoke Detectors/Fire Protection Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A smoke detector is installed on every level and inside sleeping areas <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke detectors are tested monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries are changed twice a year <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke detectors are less than 10 years old <input type="checkbox"/> A carbon monoxide detector is installed <input type="checkbox"/> In a public building, fire alarm pull boxes are located near exits and unobstructed <input type="checkbox"/> In buildings with sprinklers, sprinkler heads are unobstructed (nothing within 18") 	<p>Electrical Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate circuit breakers (or fuses) are available for the equipment used <input type="checkbox"/> All electrical equipment and appliances have the UL label from the Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate electrical outlets are available in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple outlet extension cords have a built-in circuit breaker <input type="checkbox"/> Extension cords are for temporary use only. Three-pronged type (grounded), and of the right size to handle the power needed <input type="checkbox"/> Extension cords are in the open and not run under rugs or through partitions or openings
<p>Smoking Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking materials and matches are completely out before disposing of them <input type="checkbox"/> Plenty of large, non-combustible ashtrays are available in each room <input type="checkbox"/> A "No Smoking in Bed" rule is followed <input type="checkbox"/> Ashtrays are used outside (to avoid mulch fires) 	<p>Heating and Cooking Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The heating system has been inspected and serviced in the past year <input type="checkbox"/> The fireplace is equipped with a sturdy metal fire screen <input type="checkbox"/> The fireplace or wood burning stove's chimney has been cleaned within the past year <input type="checkbox"/> All vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, ceilings and walls are properly installed <input type="checkbox"/> All combustible materials are at least 3 feet away from any space heater <input type="checkbox"/> The kitchen stove, including the oven, is kept clean of grease <input type="checkbox"/> Food, plastic containers, etc., are not stored in the oven <input type="checkbox"/> The coffee pot, heating element, and other appliances are unplugged when unattended <input type="checkbox"/> Grills are only used outdoors and away from the building
<p>Housekeeping Hazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Floors and exits are clear of clutter <input type="checkbox"/> Room doors are kept closed (It helps keep fire and smoke from spreading) <input type="checkbox"/> Candles and other open flame items are extinguished when you leave the area <input type="checkbox"/> Paint and other combustible materials are kept in tightly closed containers and away from heat sources <input type="checkbox"/> Outside areas around the building are kept clear of leaves, debris and combustible materials 	