

Fire Prevention

According to the American Red Cross, the most effective way to protect yourself and your home from fire is to identify and remove fire hazards. Sixty-five percent of home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. During a home fire, working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives.

Prevent Home Fires

- ☑ Keep items that can catch fire at least three feet from anything that gets hot, such as space heaters.
- ☑ Never smoke in bed.
- ☑ Talk to children regularly about the dangers of fire, matches and lighters—keep them out of reach.
- ☑ Turn portable heaters off when you leave a room or go to sleep.

Cooking Safety

- ☑ Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- ☑ Stay in the home when simmering, baking or roasting food.
- ☑ Keep anything that can catch fire—like pot holders, towels and clothing away from the stove.

Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills

- ☑ Install carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas.

- ☑ If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open door or window.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

- ◆ Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- ◆ Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.
- ◆ Once a month check each smoke alarm by pushing the test button.
- ◆ Replace batteries in smoke alarms at least once a year. Immediately install a new battery if an alarm chirps — warning the battery is low.
- ◆ Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. Never disable smoke or carbon monoxide alarms.
- ◆ Carbon monoxide alarms are not a substitute for smoke alarms. However, dual purpose smoke/carbon monoxide alarms are available.

Fire Escape Planning

- * Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of

your home.

- * Make sure everyone knows where to meet outside in case of fire.
- * Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year and at different times of the day.
- * Make sure everyone knows how and when to dial 9-1-1.
- * Teach household members to STOP, DROP, and ROLL if their clothes should catch on fire.

Use Caution with Fire Extinguishers.

- ⇒ Become familiar with your fire extinguisher before the emergency.
- ⇒ Only use a portable fire extinguisher if the fire is contained to a small area, and is not growing.
- ⇒ Only use a portable fire extinguisher if the room is not filled with smoke.



For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit the Red Cross of the Greater Lehigh Valley at: www.redcrosslv.org/disaster/materials

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