

Coos County Sheriff's Office

Emergency Management

Fire Safety Tips

Considerations for the home:

- Buy and carefully maintain a quality smoke detector.
- Learn what causes fire.
- Inspect your home to eliminate or control fire hazards.
- Install at least 5-pound A-B-C type fire extinguishers in the home and teach family members how to use them.
- Establish a well-planned escape route with the entire family.
- Hold practice fire drills until all family members are thoroughly familiar with plan.
- If you have an older home, have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician to make sure it meets current building codes.
- Have your chimney and fireplace cleaned and inspected yearly for creosote build-up, cracks, crumbling bricks or mortar and any obstructions.
- Keep storage areas clean and tidy.
- Keep curtains, towels and pot holders away from hot surfaces.
- Store solvents and flammable cleaners away from heat sources. **NEVER** keep gasoline in the house.
- Inspect extension cords for frayed or exposed wires or loose plugs.
- Keep an eye on your cooking and stay in the kitchen.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.

What To Do

- Remain **CALM**, but take **IMMEDIATE** action.

Home or High-Rise Fire

- If you smell smoke or the smoke detector goes off, call the fire department and activate the nearest pull-station at once.
- Before you open the door, feel the door by using the back of your hand.
- If the door is hot or warm, **DO NOT** open the door.
- If the door is cool, open it just a little to check the hallway. If you see smoke, **DO NOT** leave.
- If there is no smoke in the hallway, leave and close the door. Go directly to the stairs to leave.
- If you can't escape, use wet towels or tape to seal the door and any room supply vent.
- If you have a balcony and there is no fire below it, go out.
- If there is fire below, go to the window. **DO NOT** open the window, but stay near the window.
- If there is no fire below, go to the window and open it. Stay near the open window.
- Hang a blanket or a towel out of the window to let people know that you are there and need help.
- Be calm and wait for someone to rescue you.
- **NEVER** use the elevator.

Cooking Fire

- Call the fire department immediately.
- Slide a pan lid over flames to smother a grease or oil fire, then turn off the heat and leave the lid in place until the pan cools. **NEVER** carry the pan outside.
- Extinguish other food fires with baking soda. **NEVER** use water or flour on cooking fires.
- Keep the oven door shut and turn off the heat to smother an oven or broiler fire.

After a Fire

- **DO NOT** enter a fire-damaged building unless authorities say it is OK.

- When entering a fire-damaged building, look for signs of heat or smoke.
- Have an electrician check your household wiring before the current is turned back on. **DO NOT** attempt to reconnect any utilities yourself. Leave this to the fire department and other authorities.
- Beware of structural damage. Roofs and floors may be weakened and need repair.
- Contact your local disaster relief service, such as the American Red Cross or Salvation Army, if you need housing, food, or personal items, which were destroyed in the fire.
- Call your insurance agent. Keep records of all clean up and repair costs.
- **DO NOT** throw away any damaged goods until an official inventory has been taken.
- If you are a tenant, contact the landlord.
- Secure personal belongings or move them to another location.