

If you smoke, put it out. All the way. Every time.

Smoking & Home Fires: A campaign to prevent the #1 cause of home fire deaths.

United States Fire Administration ■ 16825 South Seton Avenue ■ Emmitsburg, MD 21727
www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking (English) ■ www.usfa.dhs.gov/fumar (Spanish)

Facts About Smoking and Home Fires

Smoking is the number one cause of home fire deaths in the United States.

Every year, men, women and children are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. Most victims of smoking-related fires never thought it could happen to them. These fires can affect not only the smoker, but others living in or next to the home at the time of the fire.

You can make a difference. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is working to help prevent home fire deaths and injuries caused by smoking materials. Through this national fire safety campaign, the USFA along with partner organizations around the country will urge smokers to **Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.**

Did you know:

- About 1,000 people are killed every year from smoking material home fires.
- People close to where a smoking material fire starts are harder to save, because the fire spreads fast.
- Most fires caused by smoking materials start on beds, furniture, or in trash.

Of the fatal victims who were not the smokers:

- Thirty-four percent were children of the smokers.
- Twenty-five percent were neighbors or friends of the smokers.
- One in four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarettes caused the fire.

Fire caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are *preventable*. Here's what you can do in your community:

- Present these facts, tips and campaign materials to your community for use in newsletters, at meetings and at other events, such as bingo and open houses.
- Engage local media. The public needs to know that smoking is the #1 cause of home fire deaths in the United States. News stories about home fires caused by smoking should include tips listed in this fact sheet. Radio stations can run public service announcements (PSAs) by using PSA scripts developed for this campaign.

SMOKING AND HOME FIRES ACTION STEPS:

If You Smoke, Smoke Outside

Most home fires caused by smoking materials start inside the home. It's better to smoke outside.



FEMA

The U.S. Fire Administration is a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

Wherever You Smoke, Use Deep, Sturdy Ashtrays

Use ashtrays with a wide, stable base that are hard to tip over. If it wobbles, it won't work.

Ashtrays should be set on something sturdy and hard to ignite, like a table. If you smoke outside, put your cigarettes out in a can filled with sand.

Make Sure Cigarettes and Ashes are Out

Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time. The cigarette really needs to be completely stubbed out in the ashtray.

Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. **Never** toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.

Check for Butts

Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. Don't put ashtrays on them. If people have been smoking in the home, check for cigarettes under cushions.

Never Smoke in a Home Where Oxygen is Used

Never smoke while using oxygen or are anywhere near an oxygen source, even if it is turned off. Oxygen can be explosive and makes fire burn hotter and faster.

If You Smoke, Fire-Safe Cigarettes are Better

Fire-safe cigarettes are less likely to cause fires. These cigarettes have banded paper that can slow the burn of a cigarette that isn't being used.

Be Alert

To prevent a deadly fire, you have to be alert. If you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, put your cigarette out first. Smoking in bed is just plain wrong.

GENERAL FIRE SAFETY FACTS:

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Get smoke alarms that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. They are called "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms."
- Check smoke alarm batteries at least once every year. You can use a familiar date such as when you change your clocks or your birthday as a reminder.
- Create an escape plan. Plan two ways to escape from every room. Practice the escape plan with everyone in the home.
- If at all possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.

For more fire prevention information and campaign materials, visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/smoking or contact:

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