

## Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are the most effective way to prevent death and injury from house fires.

Test your alarm monthly by following the directions provided with your smoke alarm.



## House Fires Causes & Prevention

1000 N.E. 10th  
Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1299

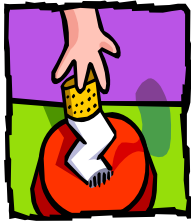
Phone: 405-271-3430  
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# *House Fires*



## *Causes & Prevention*



## Cigarettes are a leading cause of house fires

Cigarettes/smoking start 15% of the fires in Oklahoma. Three out of four injured people die in those fires.

### Prevention

- Never smoke while lying down on a couch or in bed.
- Check under chairs and sofa cushions for cigarette butts before going to sleep.
- Wet cigarette butts, ashes, and matches before dumping ashtrays.
- Extinguish lit cigarettes in an ashtray when leaving the room.
- Use large, deep ashtrays.

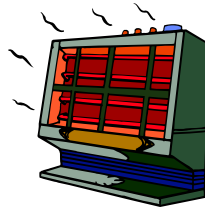
## Cooking does not seem dangerous

but it causes many injuries to adults as well as children. It can also cause house fires.



### Prevention

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking.
- Keep pan and pot handles turned in to keep them from being knocked off or pulled off by children.
- Wear close-fitting sleeves while cooking. Loose-fitting sleeves may catch fire or knock pans off the stove.
- Put out grease fires by covering the pan with a lid or using a fire extinguisher.



## Heating Equipment

such as space heaters, gas heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces cause many fires, mainly in winter months. Almost 20% of the fires in Oklahoma start this way.

### Prevention

- Keep heaters, stoves, and fireplaces at least 3 feet from everything that burns, such as: sofas, curtains, beds, clothes, walls, and blankets.
- Watch children closely while in rooms with space heaters.
- Use screens in front of fireplaces. Put ashes from wood stoves and fireplaces in a metal container and place outside.
- If a heater uses fuel like propane or kerosene, use only that kind of fuel. Add more fuel only when the heater is cool.
- Properly maintain heating equipment. Have chimneys cleaned every year.

## Children playing with fire

are a major cause of house fires in Oklahoma. Nearly three out of four people killed in those fires were under the age of 5 years old.



### Prevention

Teach your children...

- That fire is a tool and not a toy.
- To tell you if they find matches and lighters.
- To never stick objects into space heaters, fire places, gas heaters, or any open flame.

Always keep matches and lighters out of the hands of children.



## Hot Spots

In a home can cause a fire. With little effort or cost, you could save your home and your life.

### Prevention

- Extinguish (blow out) candles before leaving the room.
- Use electricity responsibly. Too many plugs in wall sockets or overloaded extension cords are fire dangers.
- Replace cracked or frayed (split) electrical cords.
- Keep liquids that burn easily, like gasoline and paint thinner, outside in closed metal containers.

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