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**American Red Cross**

## Fire Safety Tips

### Prevent Home Fires

#### General Safety Habits

- Keep flammable items at least three feet away from anything that gets hot.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.

#### Cooking

- Keep flammable items like towels and clothing away from the stove.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and get training from the fire department on how to use it.

#### Portable Heaters

- Keep blankets, curtains, furniture and other flammable items away from heaters.
- Plug heaters directly into a wall socket and unplug when not in use.

#### Electricity

- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Avoid running cords under carpets and furniture.

### Practice Home Fire Safety

#### Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including sleeping areas.
- Test and dust smoke alarms monthly, change the batteries yearly.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

#### Fire Escape Drills

- Make a fire escape plan with two exits out of every room.
- Practice your plan twice a year.
- Identify an outside meeting place to gather after escaping.
- Teach children that firefighters are their friends who can help.

### In Case of a Fire, Follow Your Escape Plan

- Crawl low under smoke.
- Feel closed doors. If the door is hot, use your second way out.
- Go to your outside meeting place and then call for help.
- Remember to **GET OUT, STAY OUT** and **CALL 9-1-1** or your local emergency phone number.

For more information, visit [redcross.org/mychapter](http://redcross.org/mychapter)

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