

CIVIL AIR PATROL – ARUNDEL COMPOSITE SQUADRON

MER-MD-023 (<http://arundel.mdwg.cap.gov>)

November
2004

SAFETY

HOME FIRE SAFETY

With **winter** approaching, most people turn on the **heat** in their homes about this time of the year. With the lighting of furnaces, stoves, heaters, and fireplaces, **home fire safety** is something that everyone should **keep in mind**.



What Should You Do?

Your home is on **fire**

You know that you have to get out **fast**

But there is one thing that you want to save.....a photo, an heirloom, or legal papers

Should you chance it? **NO !!**

Remember, if you are in a fire, there is no time!

If you try to **save** one thing, you could **lose** one thing.....**Your Life!!**

This Is Fire

Fire is **DARK**

In minutes, thick, black smoke fills a house. In a fire at night, you'd wake up completely disoriented, unable to see your hand in front of your face.

Fire is **HOT**

Room temperatures in a fire rise as high as 90 °F at floor level and over 600 °F at eye level. Inhale this super-hot air once, and you will scorch your lungs. The heat can melt your clothes to your skin. Never stand up in a fire, crawl on the floor where the air is not so hot.

Fire is **FAST**

Time is your biggest enemy. In seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. In minutes, a house can be engulfed in flames. A room can get so hot that everything in it explodes: this is called "flashover", and it can happen in three minutes.

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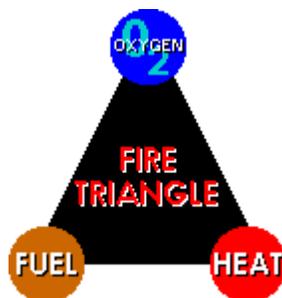
Fire is **SMOKE** and **GASES**. Smoke and toxic gases are deadly. Odorless, colorless carbon monoxide fumes can lull you into a deep sleep before the flames reach your door. Most fire deaths are caused by toxic gases, and not by hot flames.



For a **fire** to exist, there must be **three** things present:

1. **Oxygen** – oxygen is always present in your home; air has about 21% oxygen by volume
2. **Fuel** – anything that will burn, for example: clothing, furniture, curtains, flammable liquid
3. **Heat** – anything that produces heat, such as stoves, heating appliances, fireplaces, and damaged electrical wiring.

These three things make up what is commonly called the **FIRE TRIANGLE**

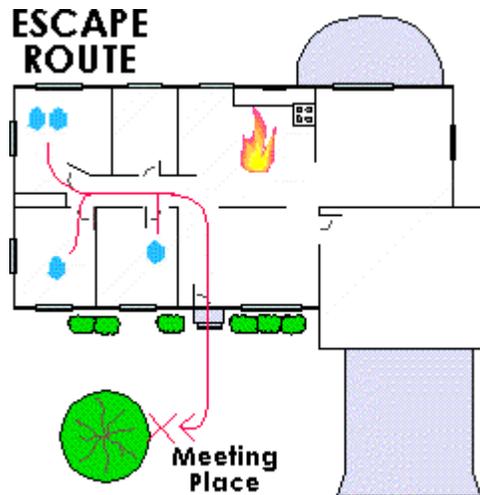


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If a Fire Should Occur in Your Home:

1. GET OUT OF THE HOUSE

Familiarize yourself with at least two (2) exits from each room, for example: one window and one door. Know where the exits are. Practice using them.



2. HAVE A MEETING PLACE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

A fire is no time to be worrying about who made it out and who did not. By establishing a central meeting place outside the house, you can count heads and not have to wonder who might still be inside.

3. PHONE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FROM A NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE

4. NEVER GO BACK INSIDE FOR ANY REASON

Once you are outside, do not go back inside. The fire department will be there in a matter of minutes. Stay at your meeting place and wait for the fire department.

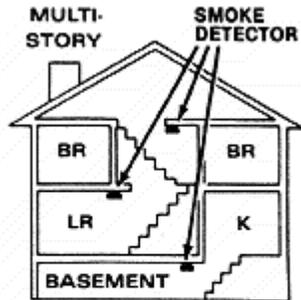


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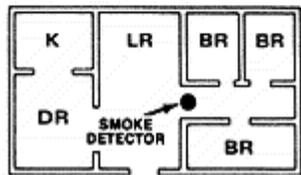
5. IN A FIRE, SECONDS COUNT !

For early detection of fires, install smoke detectors near your sleeping areas. If you have a multi-story house, install smoke detectors at each level in the home. Design a home fire escape

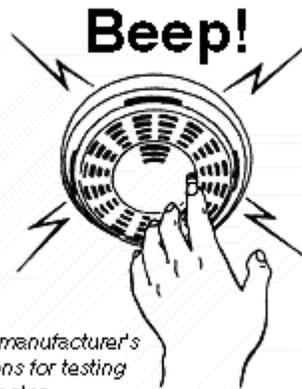
PLACE ONE DETECTOR
ON EVERY FLOOR



SINGLE LEVEL



TEST YOUR DETECTOR MONTHLY



plan, and practice using it. Establish exit drills in the home to ensure that everyone will be familiar with it. If you have sleeping areas located on the 2nd floor, provide an escape ladder or rope. Check these carefully to make sure that they are safe. Check windows that they open easily. If you are caught in smoke, **CRAWL!** Smoke rises, so stay close to the floor where the air



will be less toxic. Clothing, should it ignite, will burn rapidly. If your clothes ignite, ***DO NOT RUN.....***

STOP, DROP and ROLL !!

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Sleep with your bedroom door closed. This helps to hold back heat and smoke in case of a fire. Touch the door before opening it. If it is hot, then there is a fire on the other side. Do not open the door. Place a moist cloth or towel at the space between the door bottom and the floor. This will keep smoke out for a while, buying you some precious time to find your escape and to get out of the burning building.

HOME FIRE SAFETY

(FIRE DO's and DON'Ts)

Don't be one of the 4,500 Americans who die in fires every year. Follow these easy tips to stay safe in your home.

- DO install a smoke detector on every level of your home
- DO plan your escape routes in case fire does strike



National Fire Protection Association

BEDROOM

- DON'T smoke in bed
- DON'T place heaters within 3 feet of flammable materials
- DON'T use heaters to dry clothes
- DON'T use extension cords with portable heaters
- DON'T leave heaters unattended or fall asleep while they are on
- DO unplug heaters after you turn them off

LIVING ROOM / FAMILY ROOM

- DON'T put ashtrays on chairs or sofa arms
- DON'T staple electrical cords to walls or otherwise pierce the insulation
- DON'T leave unattended cigarettes burning in ashtrays
- DON'T run electrical cord under rugs, over nails, or in high traffic areas
- DO clean chimneys yearly

KITCHEN

- DON'T leave food unattended on the stove. If you must leave the kitchen, take a utensil along as a reminder

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- **DON'T** cook while wearing long sleeves that can dangle near burners
- **DON'T** let grease build up on your stove or oven
- **DON'T** overload electrical outlets with appliances
- **DON'T** let curtains hang near a stove or range
- **DO** check the kitchen before going to bed. Is the oven off? Coffee pot and toaster unplugged?

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

SMOKE DETECTORS

- Smoke detectors should be placed near the bedrooms and on every level of your home
- Batteries should be tested monthly
- 911 – know when to call for help
- Doors, hallways, and stairs clear of obstructions



FIRE EXTINGUISHER

- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher in your kitchen
- It is a good idea to keep fire extinguishers near the furnace, garage, and anywhere else a fire may start
- Make sure that every member of your family is familiar with the proper way to use the fire extinguisher
- If you must use a fire extinguisher, make sure that you have a clear way out in case you cannot put out the fire

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- No flammable materials (such as furniture, clothes, curtains, or towels) within three (3) feet of space heaters or stoves

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- No flammable liquids stored near ignition sources
- No frayed or cracked electrical cords
- No electrical cord under rugs, over nails, or in high traffic areas
- No overloaded electrical outlets or extension cords
- No electrical cords near sink or stove
- All fuses in fuse box are correct size and rating
- All outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring

FIRE ENGINE

A typical fire engine carries only about 750 gallons of water. This is only enough for small fires, such as cars. A lot more water is needed to put out major home fires. The 1 ¾" diameter fire hose on the trucks can deliver about 120 gallons of water per minute. This can use-up all the water that a fire engine carries in about 5 minutes. When fire engines respond to a fire, they usually stop at the nearest fire hydrant, and connect a large 5" diameter hose to it. This is called "catching the plug". The engine is then driven to the fire location, where the firefighters disembark and take a 1 ¾" hose to attack the fire.



FIREFIGHTERS

When firefighters arrive at a burning home, the first priority is not to put out the fire. The most important thing is to ***SEARCH and RESCUE***, to make sure that no one is trapped in the home. Firefighters save lives first, then protect property.

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DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT A FIRE IN YOUR HOME !



Read More.....References:

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4. <http://www.cpsc.gov>
5. <http://secure.nsc.org>
6. <http://www.wtfd.net>
7. Web sites from several U.S. Fire Departments