

A Grandparent and Caregiver Guide to Fire and Burn Safety



A home fire occurs every 76 seconds.* More than 100,000 children 14 and under are treated for fire and burn injuries each year.**

Here are some steps to make your home safe from fires and help prevent burn injuries to children.

* National Fire Protection Association, Fire Loss in the U.S. 2006.

** National Vital Statistics System. 2001 to 2005 nonfatal data. Hyattsville (MD): National Center for Health Statistics, 2007.

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Smoke Alarm Safety

- ✔ Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in each bedroom.
- If you have hearing problems, consider alarms with flashing strobe lights or vibration.



- Test alarms every month. Replace batteries once a year even if alarms are hardwired.
- If you rent, check with your landlord about smoke alarm checks.



Kitchen

- ✔ Store matches and lighters in locked cabinets or out of a child's reach.
- Never leave the kitchen while cooking and never leave a child alone.
- Do not place hot foods or liquids near the counter's edge.
- Cook with pots and pans on back burners. Turn handles away from the front.



Bathroom

- Keep the hot-water heater at 120 degrees. Test the bathwater with your wrist or elbow before placing your child in it.
- Consider putting anti-scald devices on faucets.



Bedroom

- ✔ Practice a fire escape plan with at least two ways out of each room.
- Choose a place to meet outside the home.
- Once there is a fire, get out and stay out!
- Place space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire (curtains, papers). Always turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.



Living Room/Play Area

- Place covers over unused electrical outlets.
- Establish a "Kid-Free Zone" around fireplaces (including gas fireplaces) and wood-burning stoves. Glass fire screens can be very hot.

