

DC FIRE AND EMS – FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

- ▶ Install smoke alarms on every level of the home including the basement.
- ▶ Test smoke alarms once a month.
- ▶ Never disable smoke alarms.
- ▶ Change your battery twice a year and replace your smoke alarms every ten years with 10-year lithium ion smoke alarms.
- ▶ If you are a homeowner and are unable to afford a smoke alarm, DC Fire and EMS will install one at no charge.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- ▶ Do not overload electrical circuits or outlets by plugging too many items into them.
- ▶ Replace extension cords with surge protectors.
- ▶ Never charge your cell phone or laptop on your bed.
- ▶ Space heaters and candles should have a 3-foot clearance from combustibles.
- ▶ Always clean the lint trap out of the dryer after every use.

KITCHEN SAFETY

- ▶ Never leave the kitchen while cooking. If you must leave the room use a timer to alert you when your food is ready.
- ▶ Never cook while sleepy, drinking or smoking.
- ▶ Keep pot handles turned inward and keep the stove clear of anything that can catch fire.
- ▶ If your pot catches on fire, slide a lid on top and turn the stove off. And if your oven catches fire, keep the oven door closed and turn it off.
- ▶ While using the microwave never leave it unattended.

For more information on home fire safety tips or smoke alarms, please contact the DC Fire and EMS Department Fire Prevention Division at (202) 727-1614 or email us at fems.fireprevention@dc.gov.

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SMOKING SAFETY

- ▶ Never smoke in bed or when you are sleepy.
- ▶ Do not leave lit cigarettes and smoking devices unattended.
- ▶ Avoid drinking while smoking. The combination can be dangerous.
- ▶ If friends who smoke visit, have them smoke outside to avoid a fire.
- ▶ Do not discard smoking materials by dropping them in the grass, mulch or on the ground.



FIRE EVACUATION

- ▶ Discuss and create a Fire Escape Plan with your family. Include a meeting place on your plan.
- ▶ When renting, make sure the bedroom has a window and door. Most fires happen at night, the door can protect you from smoke and fire and the window is a second way to escape.
- ▶ During a fire, smoke rises. Stay as low as possible while getting out.
- ▶ In the event of a fire, escape first then call 911. Don't go back into your home for anything.

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