



# Smoking Fire Safety

## Facts & figures

*Smoking materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. Roughly one of every four fire deaths in 2006 was attributed to smoking materials.*

*In 2006, there were an estimated 142,900 smoking-material fires in the United States. These fires caused 780 civilian deaths and 1,600 civilian injuries.*

*Older adults are at the highest risk of death or injury from smoking-material fires even though they are less likely to smoke than younger adults.*

*The most common items first ignited in home smoking-material fire deaths were upholstered furniture, mattresses and bedding.*



## SMOKING SAFETY TIPS

Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths. Smoke alarms, smolder-resistant bedding and upholstered furniture are significant fire deterrents. Here are a few safety tips to keep you and your family from becoming a fire statistic:

### SMOKING SAFETY INDOORS:

- If you smoke, choose [fire-safe cigarettes](#). They are less likely to cause fires.
- To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine or other drugs.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Do not put ashtrays on the arms of sofas or chairs
- Use large, deep ashtrays with wide lips. While smaller ashtrays may be more attractive, they are not safe. Cigarettes can roll off the edge, and the ashes can easily be blown away.
- Water down your ashes. Empty ashtrays into the toilet or an airtight metal container. Warm ashes dumped in waste cans can smolder for hours, and then ignite into fire.
- Store matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet
- Do not leave cigarettes, cigars, or pipes unattended. Put out all smoking materials before you walk away.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages while smoking. Combinations of this type or with medications can be dangerous.
- If friends or relatives who smoke have paid you a visit, be sure to check on the floor and around chair cushions for ashes that may have been dropped accidentally.

### SMOKING SAFETY OUTSIDE:

- Do not discard smoking materials by dropping them in the grass, pine needles, mulch or on the ground.
- Discard smoking materials in a non combustible container, a sand- filled container is a good choice
- Water down cigarette butts and ashes before throwing them away to prevent the chance of them smoldering and starting a fire.

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