

Compassionate Outreach Ministries Health Team

Health Tip

FIRE PREVENTION

An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire. The Bible says that the enemy comes only to steal, kill and destroy, but the Lord comes that we may have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Take heed to the following words of the wise in order that you may live life to the fullest.

Buy a smoke alarm. A working smoke alarm can double the chances of surviving a fire. Test it monthly, keep it free of dust and replace the battery at least once a year. Smoke alarms themselves should be replaced after years of service, or as recommended by the manufacturer.



Prevent electrical fires. Never overload or extension cords. Do not place cords and under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas. Immediately shut off and unplug appliances that sputter, spark or emit an unusual smell. Have them professionally repaired or replaced.

ten
circuits
wires
areas.
that
Have

Use appliances wisely. When using appliances follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Overheating, unusual smells, shorts and sparks are all warning signs that appliances need to be shut off, then replaced or repaired. Unplug appliances when not in use. Use safety caps to cover all unused outlets, especially if there are small children in the home.

Be careful with alternate heaters. Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away. If you use a fireplace, use fire screens and have your chimney cleaned annually. Kerosene heaters should be used only where approved by authorities. Never use gasoline or camp-stove fuel. Refuel outside and only after the heater has cooled.

Invest in Fire Safety Sprinklers. When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are affordable - they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.

Plan your escape. Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never to open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Get out and then call for help.

Train your children. Children under five are curious about fire. Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

Protect your elders. Seniors are vulnerable to fires because many live alone and can't respond quickly. Assess your elderly love ones' homes and educate them on these fire prevention strategies.