



Smoke Signals

A Life Safety Newsletter



City of Dallas

Does Your Child Know the Sound of a Smoke Alarm?

Children younger than 7 are less likely to wake up if a smoke alarm sounds while they're sleeping. Make sure children know the sound of the smoke alarm and what to do when they hear it. Test your alarms at night to see if your child will wake up and respond to the alarm. If your child doesn't wake up to the alarm, try a talking alarm that says "Fire! Fire!"

Preschool-aged children (3 years and older) can begin to learn what to do in case of a fire. Teach children that the sound of a smoke alarm means go outside immediately, meet at the special meeting place and don't hide from fire fighters.

Remember to practice a fire escape plan with your family, have at least two ways out of every sleeping area and choose a special meeting place.



What is Causing our Homes to Burn?

Electrical Fire:

Currently the most common cause of residential fires in Dallas. Remember not to use extension cords for permanent wiring and avoid overloading power strips and electrical plugs. Avoid running cords across doorways or under carpets. Many older homes are not properly wired for today's modern appliances so be cautious in your use of electricity.

Improperly Discarded Smoking Materials:

Discard cigarettes, cigars and pipes safely and completely. Never drop smoking materials in a trash can or out the car window. Make sure your smoking materials are extinguished by holding them under running water until they are cool to the touch. If you smoke, it is always best to smoke outside.

Unattended Cooking:

More residential fires begin in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. If a pan fire begins on your stove, slide a lid over the top of the pan to suffocate the fire. Get everyone out and call 9-1-1 immediately.

Combustibles too close to heat:

"Combustibles" are objects capable of igniting and burning. With cold weather approaching, space heaters and chimneys will be back in use. Have your chimney inspected and creosote build up removed by a professional. Be careful to keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters, fire places or any other heat source in the house.

Dryer Malfunctions:

Residential clothes dryers can produce a substantial amount of heat. If your home has a dryer, clean the lint trap after each use. Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be vented to the outside and inspected by a professional to ensure the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.

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Back To School Safety:

Autumn means school is back in session. Does your child ride the school bus? Remember these safety tips:

- Stand at least 10 ft away from the bus stop and wait until the driver says it's OK before stepping on the bus.
- Use the hand rails to avoid falls.
- Be careful that clothing and book bags with straps do not catch on handrails or doors when leaving bus.
- After getting off the bus, move to the side walk or shoulder of the road—never walk next to or behind the bus.

Does your home have a working smoke alarm?

If your home does not have a working smoke alarm, please call 3-1-1. Dallas Fire-Rescue will be glad to install a smoke alarm for you!

