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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### GENERAL FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Keep matches and lighters locked up and away from children and teach them fire IS NOT a toy
- Do not use electrical cords as permanent wiring use surge bars with GFI's in them (if you have to, do not place them under rugs, trap them against walls, or pile them in a lump, it allows excessive heat to build up in the cord)
  - If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired
    - Replace any frayed, stiff or cracked electrical cords
    - Never tamper with the fuse box or use the improper size fuse
      - Do not use pennies as fuse replacements
  - If using portable space heaters keep all combustible materials (bedding, clothes, curtains, papers etc) at least 3 feet away
    - When using electric blankets use only lab-approved ones
- Never smoke in bed or if you are sleepy and do not empty ash trays in the garbage unless you know for sure all cigarettes are cold
  - Install smoke detectors (you should have at least one smoke detector on every floor of the house, including the kitchen and every bedroom, as well as the hallways outside the bedrooms)
    - Test your smoke detectors routinely and change your batteries routinely (also replace the detector according to manufactures recommendations)
      - Keep you smoke detectors clean (remove dust and cobwebs when you test them)
    - You should have a fire extinguisher (ABC) for every floor of the house (every bedroom, kitchen, and garage)
      - Learn how your extinguisher operates before an emergency arises
- Have and escape plan drawn out for your house with at least 2 exits if possible from all rooms and include details such as stairs, hallways and windows that can be used as fire escape routes
  - Make sure all family members know what to do in the event of a fire
- Practice monthly fire drills and try to get out of the house blind folded, because this is what you will see.....darkness
  - Designate a meeting place outside of the home
    - Keep low in smoke; the gasses up high can get hot enough to kill you (roll out of bed)
- For bedrooms on the upper levels of the home, purchase and easy to use escape ladder as well as a flashlight in each
  - Sleep with you bedroom door closed (this will help keep heat and smoke out)
    - If a door feels hot do not open it find another way out
      - Never leave cooking unattended
  - Never leave home with a clothes dryer running and make sure it is vented to the outside
    - Do not over load sockets (do not use multi-plug adaptors)
    - Do not use light bulbs that have higher watts than is recommended for the fixture
- If you have halogen lamps, make sure they are away from flammable drapes and low ceiling areas
- If you have a breaker tripping or a fuse that keeps blowing contact and electrician and reduce the number of appliances running on that circuit
  - Be sure all electrical equipment bears the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label



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- Never pour water on a grease fire
- Keep all appliances clean and in good condition (if any questions have a repairmen look at it or get rid of it)
  - Don't store items on a stove top
  - All flammable liquids should be stored outside the home
- Never leave candles burning unattended or ones that have combustible materials embedded in them
- If you can't get out of a room stay low and fill all the cracks in the door with a sheet or towel and yell for help
  - If clothes catch fire STOP, DROP, and ROLL
- If the lights dim when you turn on an appliance that circuit is overloaded or has a loose connection
- If sparks appear when you insert or remove a plug, this could be a sign of a loose connection
  - If an electric cord is warm to the touch the cord is underrated or defective
  - A fuse or a circuit breaker that keeps blowing or tripping is an important warning sign
  - A light bulb that burns out frequently is a sign that the bulb is too high of a wattage for that fixture
- Never go back into a burning home
- Always call 911 from outside the structure

These are just some fire safety tips and it is up to you to make your home fire safe.  
Prevention starts with you.