

Fires Caused by Smoking Cigarettes

According to the US Fire Administration...

- The risk of dying in a residential fire caused by smoking materials increases with age. Over 40 % of fatal smoking material fire victims were age 65 or older, compared to their 13% share of the population.
- Smokers are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home.
- Fires caused by smoking materials often smolder, sometimes for hours before the first flame.
- For most people who died in residential smoking fires, escape was made more difficult because they were asleep.
- The most common materials to first ignite are mattresses and bedding, followed by trash and upholstered furniture.
- If you are a smoker, take extra precautions to ensure the safety of you and your family.

Smoking Safety Check List

If you or anyone in your home smokes, make your home safer:

- Use large deep ashtrays and check them frequently.
- After entertaining in your home always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions and inside trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- Do not smoke in bed or lying down, especially if you are drowsy, medicated or have been drinking alcohol.
- Consider additional smoke alarms in your home, specifically a photoelectric type, which is the most reliable for smoldering type fires.



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