



# NFPA EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES

2018 EDITION

**DESK REFERENCE** FOR THE FIRE SERVICE  
AND FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATORS

**FIREFIGHTING**

**MATCHES  
& LIGHTERS**

**HOME**

**SMOKE  
ALARMS**

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

**MEDICAL  
OXYGEN**

**COOKING  
SMOKING**

**CANDLES**

**ELECTRICAL**

**BURNS**

**SPRINKLERS**

**CARBON  
MONOXIDE**

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[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



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## **PURPOSE OF EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Educational Messages Advisory Committee (EMAC) meets periodically to review NFPA's fire and burn safety education messages and provide recommendations to NFPA public education staff for updating and revising the messages. The messages are used throughout NFPA's educational programs, curricula, and handouts and provide fire and life safety educators with accurate and consistent language for use when offering safety information to the public. When applicable, the messages are made consistent with NFPA's codes, standards, and related criteria. Each topic area is self-contained, written so that all the information needed on a certain subject is provided within that category. As a result, some messaging may be repeated throughout topic areas.



**NATIONAL FIRE  
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource  
on fire, electrical and related hazards

## **Educational Messages Advisory Committee Members 2018**

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## Who May Submit a Comment

Anyone may submit a Comment, and the submitter need not be a member of EMAC or NFPA. Go to [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org) for the submission form.

## Application

The application of this document is to establish messaging as a reference for fire and life safety educators as they are designing and delivering outreach, such as lessons, programs, and presentations, and provide a base so that fire and life safety educators can tailor educational messages to fit the needs of the target audience, with consideration given to age, ability, familiarity with environment, language, and other matters.

## Tips for Tailoring Educational Messages

### From Core to Customized

Moving from core messages in the NFPA Desk Reference to customized messages allows educators to create products that appeal to unique groups.

Tailor messages to consider:

- Age appeal
- Cultural sensitivity
- Delivery potential
- Language & readability
- Pop culture connections
- Readiness to perform a behavior
- Relevancy to the safety behaviors

#### Remembers the ABC's!

A customized call-to-action should be:

- accurate, appropriate & affirmative
- behavior-focused, basic and pull from the core message
- consistent with core messaging



## Tips for Tailoring Educational Messages

### Matching Message to Audience

Core Message	Customized Call-to-Action
Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.	<i>Stand by your pan.</i>

### Target Audience

**Baby Boomers**



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### Matching Message to Audience

Core Message	Customized Call-to-Action
To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleeping, have consumed alcohol, or have taken a medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.	<i>Stay focused when cooking. Ban snapchat and red cups from the kitchen.</i>

### Target Audience

**College Students**



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## Matching Message to Audience

Core Message	Customized Call-to-Action
<p>Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.</p>	<p><i>To put out a pan fire, slide a lid over the pan. Turn off the stove. Let the pan cool.</i></p>

## Target Audience

**Refugee Group**



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# SECTION 1

## EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES BY TOPIC\*

### CHAPTER 1 Home Smoke Alarms

#### 1.1 Fire Deaths — Smoke Alarms Save Lives

**1.1.1** Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home.

#### 1.2 Installation

**1.2.1** Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection.

**1.2.2** Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home for the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound. Make sure you can hear the sound of the smoke alarm.

**1.2.2.1** It is especially important to have interconnected smoke alarms, if you sleep with doors closed.

**1.2.3** Smoke alarms can be interconnected electrically by a qualified electrician or by installing battery-operated wireless interconnected smoke alarms.

**1.2.4** For the best protection or where extra time is needed to awaken or assist others, both ionization smoke alarms and photoelectric smoke

alarms or combination ionization-photoelectric alarms, also known as dual sensor smoke alarms, are recommended.

**1.2.5** An ionization smoke alarm, in general, is more responsive to flaming fires, and a photoelectric smoke alarm, in general, is more responsive to smoldering fires.

**1.2.6** Choose a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**1.2.7** Install smoke alarms away from the kitchen to prevent nuisance alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 metres) from a cooking appliance.

**1.2.8** Photoelectric type smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen.

#### 1.3 Testing and Maintenance

**1.3.1** Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.

**1.3.2** Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

**1.3.3** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.

#### 1.4 People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

**1.4.1** Install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**1.4.2** When the smoke alarm sounds, strobe lights flash to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing of a possible fire when they are awake.

**1.4.2.1** When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them

\* For further information on these chapter topics, go to [nfpa.org/public-education](http://nfpa.org/public-education)

to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.

**1.4.2.2** When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device should be used to wake them. They may find a pillow or bed shaker is helpful to wake them. These devices are activated by the sound of the standard smoke alarm.

**1.4.3** Choose smoke alarms and accessories for people who are deaf or hard of hearing that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

## **1.5 Battery Replacement**

**1.5.1** Smoke alarms with nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.

**1.5.2** For smoke alarms that do not have nonreplaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

## **1.6 Smoke Alarm Replacement**

**1.6.1** Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

**1.6.2** Replace any smoke alarm that does not respond after a new battery has been installed.

**1.6.3** Replace combination smoke-carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

## **1.7 Rental Housing**

**1.7.1** All rental housing must have working smoke alarms.

**1.7.2** Be sure smoke alarms are installed in all rental housing. Contact your landlord, property manager, or fire department for help.

**1.7.3** Check with your local fire or building department for information about state and local ordinances on smoke alarm installation and maintenance in rental housing.

**1.7.4** Maintenance of the smoke alarms may be the responsibility of the landlord or the renter, depending on the rental agreement. Maintain the smoke alarm in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

# **CHAPTER 2 Home Fire Sprinklers**

## **2.1 General Tips**

**2.1.1** Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers can reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire, allowing people more time to escape.

**2.1.2** Home fire sprinklers activate on an individual basis. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water on the fire and not the rest of the home.

**2.1.3** A home fire sprinkler can control or put out a fire with a fraction of the water that would be used by fire department hoses.

**2.1.4** Accidental sprinkler discharges are rare.

**2.1.5** Home fire sprinklers can be installed in new or existing homes. If you are remodeling or building your home, install home fire sprinklers.

## **2.2 Installation**

**2.2.1** Have a qualified contractor

install your home fire sprinkler system according to NFPA codes and standards and local fire safety regulations.

**2.2.2** Home fire sprinklers work along with smoke alarms to save lives.

## 2.3 Maintenance

**2.3.1** The home fire sprinkler installer must provide instructions on inspecting, testing, and maintaining the system, a simple process that can be performed by the home occupant. A visual inspection should be done each month to ensure that the water valve on the sprinkler system is open.

**2.3.1.1** Make sure that your home fire sprinkler system is working properly by

- (A) Conducting a visual inspection of all home fire sprinklers each month to make sure nothing is blocking them and nothing is hung from or attached to them.
- (B) Doing a water flow test on the sprinkler system every six months (or having a fire sprinkler contractor do the test) to ensure all water flow devices are working.
- (C) Keeping home fire sprinklers clear and free of objects that can interfere with their proper use.
- (D) Inspecting tanks, if present, each month to make sure that they are full.
- (E) Starting the pump, if present, each month to make sure that it works and that it does not trip any circuit breakers.

- (F) Not painting fire sprinklers. If you are painting in the area, cover the sprinkler head with a bag and remove after the work is done.

## CHAPTER 3 Carbon Monoxide

### 3.1 Dangers of Carbon Monoxide

**3.1.1** Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is often called “the invisible killer.” It is created when fossil fuels such as kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, methane, or wood don’t burn completely. CO gas can kill people and pets.

**3.1.2** Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can result from cars left running in garages or from malfunctioning or improperly vented portable generators, water heaters, clothes dryers, or furnaces or other heating appliances.

**3.1.3** Headache, nausea, and drowsiness are symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**3.1.4** Exposure to carbon monoxide can be fatal.

### 3.2 Installation

**3.2.1** Choose a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**3.2.2** Install and maintain carbon monoxide (CO) alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.

**3.2.2.1** When traveling or staying away from home, bring a travel carbon monoxide (CO) alarm.

**3.2.3** Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms (CO) outside each separate sleeping area, on every level

of the home, and in other locations as required by laws, codes, or standards. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.

**3.2.4** For the best protection, have CO alarms that are interconnected throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

**3.2.5** If you have combination smoke-carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, follow the directions for smoke alarm installation.

**3.2.6** Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms and vice versa. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and the sound of CO alarms.

### **3.3 Testing and Replacement**

**3.3.1** Test carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month and replace them if they fail to respond when tested. The sensors in CO alarms have a limited life. Replace the CO alarm according to manufacturer's instructions or when the end-of-life signal sounds.

**3.3.2** Know the difference between the sound of the carbon monoxide (CO) alarm and the smoke alarm, and the low-battery signals. If the audible low-battery signal sounds, replace the batteries or replace the device. If the carbon monoxide (CO) alarm still sounds, get to a fresh air location and call 9-1-1 or the fire department.

**3.3.3** To keep carbon monoxide (CO) alarms working, follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.

### **3.4 Inside the Home**

**3.4.1** Have fuel-burning heating

equipment (fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves, pellet stoves, coal stoves, space heaters, and portable heaters) and chimneys inspected by a professional every year.

**3.4.2** Before using a fireplace, open the damper for proper ventilation.

**3.4.3** Never use an oven or stovetop to heat your home.

**3.4.4** Purchase heating and cooking equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**3.4.5** Vent the exhaust from fuel-burning equipment to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Keep the venting clear and unblocked.

**3.4.6** Use only battery-powered lights in confined areas, such as tents.

### **3.5 Motor Vehicles**

**3.5.1** Remove vehicles from the garage right away after starting. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.

**3.5.2** Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor in a garage, even if garage doors are open. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.

**3.5.3** Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked with snow, ice, or other materials. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.

**3.5.4** If your vehicle has an automatic engine starter, check to make sure your vehicle is off if it is in the garage. The carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill people and pets.

### **3.6 Appliances**

**3.6.1** Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.

**3.6.2** Always use barbecue grills outside, away from all doors, windows, vents, and other building openings. Grills can produce carbon monoxide (CO) gas. Never use grills inside the home or the garage, even if the doors are open.

**NEW** **3.6.3** Generally, a minimum of 3 feet (1 metre) provides enough distance between the grill and anything that can burn (deck, railings, walls, for example) so that heat from the grill does not pose an ignition hazard.

### 3.7 Portable Generators

**NEW** **3.7.1** Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 5 feet (1.5 metres) away from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 5-foot (1.5 metres) distance from the generator exhaust system to the building.

**NEW** **3.7.2** Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.

**NEW** **3.7.3** Place generators so that exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors, or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.

**3.7.4** If you are using a portable generator, make sure you have battery-operated carbon monoxide (CO) alarms or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup in the home.

### 3.8 If Your Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Sounds

**3.8.1** Immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors. Make sure everyone is accounted for.

**NEW** **3.8.2** Call 9-1-1 or the fire department from the fresh air location. Remain there until emergency

personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.

## CHAPTER 4 Home Fire Escape

### 4.1 Planning

**4.1.1** Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection. Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound and understands the warning of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

**4.1.2** Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

**4.1.3** Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.

**4.1.4** Teach your children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them. Make sure they can open windows, remove screens, and unlock doors.

**4.1.5** Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.

**4.1.6** Practice your home fire escape drill with overnight guests.

**4.1.7** Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

**4.1.8** If a room has a window air conditioner, make sure there is still a second way out of the room.

**4.1.9** If allowed in your community and approved by code as a secondary means of escape, windows with security bars, grills, or window guards should have easy-to-use quick-release devices that are accessible from inside the home.

**4.1.10** A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

**4.1.11** Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

**4.1.12** If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

**4.1.13** Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number from a cell phone or from a neighbor's phone.

**4.1.14** Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.

**4.1.15** Make sure your house number can be seen from the street both day and night.

## **4.2 Practicing the Home Fire Escape Drill**

**4.2.1** Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.

**4.2.2** Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.

**4.2.3** Practice using different ways out.

**4.2.4** Close doors behind you as you leave.

**4.2.5** Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.

**4.2.6** Go to your outside meeting place.

**4.2.7** Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.

**4.2.8** After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.

## **4.3 If There Is a Fire**

**4.3.1** When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place. Call 9-1-1 or the fire department.

**4.3.2** If there is smoke blocking the door or first way out, use your second way out.

**4.3.3** Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.

**4.3.4** Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.

**4.3.5** If there is smoke coming in from around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.

**4.3.6** If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.

**4.3.7** If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1 or your fire department. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a flashlight or a light-colored cloth.

**4.3.8** If you cannot get to someone needing assistance, leave the home

and call 9-1-1 or the fire department. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located.

**4.3.9** If pets are trapped inside your home, tell firefighters right away. Never re-enter a burning building.

## CHAPTER 5 Hotels/Motels

**5.1.1** Choose a hotel that is protected by both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers.

**5.1.2** When you check in, ask the desk clerk what the fire alarm sounds like. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, ask for a room equipped with a smoke alarm and accessories that will awaken you or a portable smoke alarm made specifically for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. You may want to consider bringing one with you.

**5.1.3** Read the escape plan posted in your room.

**5.1.4** Count the number of doors between your room and the nearest two fire exits. If the exit doors are not alarmed, open them to be sure they are unlocked.

**5.1.5** Keep your room key by your bed and take it with you if there is a fire. If you cannot escape, you may have to return to your room.

**5.1.6** If you hear an alarm, leave and close all doors behind you.

**5.1.7** Use the stairs to get out. Typically you should not use the elevator unless directed by the fire department. Some buildings are equipped with elevators intended for use during an emergency situation. These types of elevators will clearly be marked that they are safe to use in the event of an emergency.

**5.1.8** If you must escape through

smoke, get low and go under the smoke to the exit.

**5.1.9** If all escape routes are blocked, return to your room. Shut off fans and air conditioners. Stuff wet towels or bedding in the cracks around the doors and vents. Call 9-1-1 to let them know your location. Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or light-colored cloth.

**5.1.10** Bring a flashlight; keep it near your bed.

## **NEW!** CHAPTER 6 College and University Housing

### 6.1 On- and Off-Campus Housing

**6.1.1** Look for housing with fire sprinklers when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing. This is the best fire protection.

**6.1.2** Make sure you can hear the building alarm system when you are in your bedroom.

**6.1.3** Learn your building's evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they are the real thing.

**6.1.4** Keep halls, exits, and stairs clear. If there is a fire, you need to leave quickly.

**6.1.5** Keep your room key, building key, and/or access card near your bed when you sleep. Take them with you when you hear the fire alarm and leave the building.

**6.1.6** Read any emergency information cards posted in your area.

**6.1.7** When the fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.

**6.1.8** Make sure carbon monoxide alarms are installed in dorm rooms, apartments, or houses to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.

**6.1.9** Stay in the kitchen when cooking.

**6.1.10** Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.

**6.1.11** Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

**6.1.12** If you smoke, smoke outside and only where permitted. Use sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays. Do not smoke in bed or when you have been drinking or are drowsy.

**6.1.13** Many schools do not permit the use of traditional candles. Consider using flameless candles. They come in many sizes, colors, and scents and look like wax candles.

**6.1.14** Call 9-1-1 to report fires or if you suspect fire activity.

## **6.2 On-Campus Housing**

**6.2.1** If you live in a dormitory, make sure your sleeping room has a smoke alarm, or your dormitory suite has a smoke alarm in each living area as well as the sleeping room. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the dormitory suite and building should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.

## **6.3 Off-Campus Housing**

**6.3.1** If you live in an apartment unit or house, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on every level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.

**6.3.2** Know two ways out of every room and practice the escape plan with your roommates.

**6.3.4** Test all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms at least monthly.

**6.3.5** Never remove batteries or disable the smoke alarms or carbon monoxide alarms.

## **CHAPTER 7 If You Are on Fire**

**7.1.1** If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

**7.1.2** If you cannot stop, drop, and roll, keep a blanket or towel nearby in case of fire to help you or others smother flames. Cover the person with a blanket to smother the fire. If you use a wheelchair, scooter, or other device and are able to get to the floor, lock the device to stay in place before getting on the floor to roll until the flames are out.

**7.1.3** Once the flames have been smothered, remove loose clothing or clothing with elastic bands, belts, and jewelry.

**7.1.4** Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies. Get medical help right away by calling 9-1-1 or the fire department.

## **CHAPTER 8 Cooking**

### **8.1 Stay Alert**

**8.1.1** To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.

## 8.2 Watch What You Heat!

**8.2.1** The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

**NEW** **8.2.2** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the burner if you leave the kitchen for any reason.

**8.2.3** If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

**8.3** Keeping Things That Can Catch Fire Away from Heat Sources

**8.3.1** Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains—away from your stovetop.

**8.3.2** Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.

**8.3.3** Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and can catch fire if it comes in contact with a gas flame or an electric burner.

## 8.4 What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire

**8.4.1** Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.

**8.4.1.1** Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

**8.4.1.2** Never discharge a portable fire extinguisher into a grease fire because it will spread the fire.

**8.4.2** In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed until it is cool. After a fire, the oven should

be checked and/or serviced before being used again.

**8.4.3** When in doubt, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. After you leave, call 9-1-1 or the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's telephone.

## 8.5 Keeping Children and Pets Away from the Cooking Area

**8.5.1** Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

**8.5.2** Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.

**8.5.3** Keep pets off cooking surfaces and nearby countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto the burner.

## 8.6 Electrical Cooking Equipment Safety

**8.6.1** Always use cooking equipment—slow cookers, electric skillets, hot plates, griddles, etc.—that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**8.6.2** Follow the manufacturer's instructions and code requirements when installing, using, or cleaning cooking equipment.

**8.6.3** Plug microwave ovens or other cooking appliances directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance—it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

**8.6.4** When possible, to prevent an electric stovetop fire, replace standard coil burners with temperature-limiting control electric coils. Make sure the replacement coils are listed by a qualified testing laboratory as compatible with the specific range.

**8.6.5** Check electrical cords or any part of the appliance for cracks, breaks, damage, or overheating. Have a professional repair the appliance or cord as needed, or replace the appliance.

**8.6.6** Place cooking equipment where it won't get bumped or knocked over.

## **NEW!** 8.7 Portable Cooking Equipment Safety

**8.7.1** A slow cooker is designed to be left on while you do other things, even things outside of the home. That said, there are conditions:

- (A) Follow the manufacturer's instructions on where and how to use a slow cooker.
- (B) Keep things that could catch fire away from the slow cooker.
- (C) Inspect the cord to the slow cooker to be sure that it has not been damaged. Do not use any appliance with a damaged cord.
- (D) Make sure the slow cooker is in a place where it won't get bumped. If the lid gets dislodged, the liquid could boil away, the appliance could overheat, and a fire could occur.

**8.7.2** Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet.

**8.7.3** Stay with the hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet when cooking.

**8.7.4** Touching the surface of a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet can burn you. Avoid touching the surface.

**8.7.5** Do not operate a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet with a damaged cord or plug.

**8.7.6** Unplug a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet when not in use and before cleaning. Allow the appliance to cool before cleaning it.

**8.7.7** Do not immerse heat control, cord, or plug of a hot plate, griddle, or electric skillet in water or other liquid.

## **8.8 Microwave Ovens**

**8.8.1** Place or install the microwave oven at a safe height within easy reach of all users. If possible, the face of the person using the microwave oven should be higher than the front of the microwave oven door to reduce the risk of a scald.

**8.8.2** Always supervise children when they are using the microwave oven.

**8.8.3** Use only microwave-safe cookware (containers or dishes). Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven.

**8.8.4** Do not leave a microwave oven unattended when microwaving popcorn, since the heat buildup can cause fires. Heat the popcorn according to the written instructions.

**8.8.5** Open microwaved food away from the face. Hot steam escaping from a container of microwaved food or the food itself can cause burns.

**8.8.6** Verify the cooking time when using a microwave oven.

**8.8.7** Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven because it heats liquids unevenly. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.

**8.8.8** If your microwave oven is mounted over your stove, use extra caution to reduce the risk of spills and scalds. Avoid leaning over hot burners or pans when putting things in or getting them out of the microwave oven.

**8.8.9** If you have a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately. This will stop the fan so it won't feed oxygen to the flames. Never open the oven door until the fire is out. If in doubt, call the fire department.

## 8.9 Barbecue Grills

**8.9.1** Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet barbecue grills must only be used outdoors. Indoor use can kill occupants by causing a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

**8.9.2** Place the grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony, including any porch or balcony on an upper level of the building.

**8.9.3** Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.

**8.9.4** Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3-foot (1 metre) "kid-free zone" around the grill.

**8.9.5** Use long-handled grilling tools for plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking.

**8.9.6** Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in the tray(s) below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

**NEW** **8.9.7** Never leave a hot barbecue grill unattended.

## 8.10 Charcoal Grills

**8.10.1** Use one of the following methods to start charcoal for cooking:

- (A) If you use a charcoal chimney to start charcoal for cooking, use a long match to avoid burning your fingers when lighting the paper.

- (B) If you use an electrical charcoal starter, be sure to use a grounded extension cord.

- (C) If you choose to use lighter fluid, use only fluid intended for charcoal grills.

**8.10.2** Never add charcoal starter fluid to coals or kindling that has already been ignited.

**8.10.3** Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid except charcoal starter or lighter fluid to start a charcoal fire.

**8.10.4** Store the charcoal starter fluid outside, out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.

**8.10.5** Dispose of charcoal coals only after they are cool. Empty the coals into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid that is used only to collect coals. Place the container outside away from anything that can burn. Never empty coals directly into a trash can.

## 8.11 Propane Grills

**8.11.1** Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year and after each time the gas tank is reconnected. A soap-and-water solution (1/3 liquid dish soap and 2/3 water) applied to the hose and connection will quickly reveal escaping propane by causing bubbles to form. If you determine by smell or by the soap bubble test that your gas tank hose and connection has a gas leak, do the following:

- (A) Turn off the gas tank and grill.
- (B) If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- (C) If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

**8.11.2** Use only equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.

**8.11.3** Always store propane gas tanks outside of buildings or garages. Vapors leaked indoors can be easily ignited by pilot lights or electrical equipment, causing an explosion. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the tank or cylinder and leave it outside.

**8.11.4** Light a propane grill only with the cover open. If the flame on the propane grill goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting.

## **8.12 Turkey Fryers**

**8.12.1** NFPA continues to believe that turkey fryers that use cooking oil, as currently designed, are not suitable for safe use by even a well-informed and careful consumer. These types of turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. In addition, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, and the destruction of property. NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants, for the preparation of the dish, or consider a new type of "oil-less" turkey fryer.

**9.1.1** Teach children that hot things burn.

**9.1.2** Place items so they cannot be pulled down or knocked over.

**9.1.3** Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge.

**9.1.4** Keep appliance cords coiled and away from counter edges.

**9.1.5** Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.

**9.1.6** Use dry oven mitts or potholders. Hot cookware or tableware can heat moisture in a pot holder or hot pad, resulting in a scald burn.

**9.1.7** If you have young children in the home, cook on the stove's back burners.

**9.1.8** When children are old enough, teach them to cook safely.

## **9.2 Hot Tap Water and Scald Burns**

**9.2.1** Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius). The lower temperature reduces the risk of scalds and burns.

**9.2.2** For bathing and showering, the temperature of the water should not exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).

**9.2.3** If you lower the temperature setting on your water heater, you will need to test the temperature at the faucet. Allow water to run 3 to 5 minutes. Test the water with a meat, candy, or cooking thermometer. If the water is hotter than 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius), adjust the temperature of the water heater and wait a full day to allow the temperature in the tank to adjust. Retest and readjust as needed.

**9.2.4** If children are in the home, do not leave the bathroom while the tub is filling.

# **CHAPTER 9 Burns**

## **9.1 Preventing Scalds and Burns in the Kitchen**

**9.2.5** Before placing a child in the bath or getting into the tub yourself, test the water.

**9.2.6** Fill the tub or sink by running cool water first and then adding hot water. Turn the hot water off first. Mix the water thoroughly and check the temperature by moving your hand, wrist, and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.

**9.2.7** When bathing a young child, seat the child facing away from the faucets so the child cannot reach the faucet. Turn the faucet to the “COLD” position.

**9.2.8** Consider installing anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads to prevent scalds. These devices reduce the water flow to a trickle as the water temperature nears 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49). Anti-scald devices are available online and in some hardware stores.

### 9.3 Treatment of Burns

**9.3.1** Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Do not apply creams, ointments, sprays, or other home remedies.

**9.3.2** Remove all clothing, diapers, jewelry, and metal from the burned area. These can hide underlying burns and retain heat, thereby increasing skin damage.

**9.3.3** Go to your local emergency room, call 9-1-1, or see your doctor if the burn is:

- (A) on the face, hands, feet, major joints, or genital area and/or bigger than the injured person’s palm
- (B) white, tight, dry (leathery), or painless

(C) caused by chemicals or electricity

(D) causing difficulty breathing

**9.3.4** See your doctor as soon as possible if the burn:

(A) does not heal in 2 to 3 days

(B) becomes foul smelling

(C) develops thick drainage, redness, or swelling

(D) causes a fever

(E) results in a large blister, wet weepy wound, and/ or severe pain.

## CHAPTER 10 Heating

### 10.1 General Heating

**10.1.1** Have a 3-foot (1 metre) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.

**10.1.2** Supervise children whenever a wood or oil stove or other space heater is being used. Use a sturdy metal screen to prevent contact burns, which are more common than flame burns.

**10.1.3** All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from heating equipment.

**10.1.4** Use heating equipment that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**10.1.5** Never use your oven or stove for heating. Ovens and stoves are not designed to heat your home.

**10.1.6** Install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to local codes and the manufacturer’s instructions.

**10.1.7** Have a qualified professional install the equipment.

**10.1.8** Make sure fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Carbon monoxide is created when fuels burn incompletely. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause illness and even death. Make sure the venting for exhaust is kept clear and unobstructed. This includes removal of snow and ice and other debris around the outlet to the outside.

**10.1.9** Choose a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.

**10.1.10** Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

## **10.2 Portable Electric Space Heaters**

**10.2.1** Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

**10.2.2** Purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**10.2.3** Purchase and use space heaters that have an automatic shut-off—if they tip over, they shut off.

**10.2.4** Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface and keep them and their electrical cords away from things that can burn, high traffic areas, and doorways.

**10.2.5** Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.

**10.2.5.1** Do not plug anything else into the same circuit as the one you are using for your space heater. Doing so could result in overheating.

**10.2.5.2** Check often for a secure plug-to-outlet fit. If the plug does not

fit snugly into the wall outlet or if the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced. Have a qualified electrician replace the wall outlet.

**10.2.6** Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Replace them before using the space heater.

## **10.3 Fuel-Burning Space Heaters**

**10.3.1** Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.

**10.3.2** When refueling, allow the appliance to cool first and then refuel outside.

**NEW** **10.3.3** When using a fuel-burning space heater, open a window to reduce carbon monoxide exposure and ensure proper ventilation.

**10.3.4** Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in some communities. Check with your local fire department before using.

**10.3.5** All new unvented gas-fired space heaters have an oxygen depletion sensor that detects a reduced level of oxygen in the area where the heater is operating and shuts off the heater before a hazardous level of carbon monoxide accumulates. If you have an older heater without this feature, replace it with one that does.

**10.3.6** If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow 5 minutes or more for the gas to go away before trying to relight the pilot. Follow manufacturer's instructions when relighting the pilot. Do not allow gas to accumulate, and light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot to avoid risk of flashback.

**10.3.7** If you smell gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the building immediately and call

9-1-1, the fire department, or the gas company.

## **10.4 Wood-Burning and Pellet Stoves**

**10.4.1** Have a qualified professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys following the manufacturer's instructions.

**10.4.2** Wood stoves should be listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**10.4.3** In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. Not only is it cleaner for the environment, it also creates less buildup in the chimney.

**10.4.4** In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.

**10.4.5** Start the fire with newspaper, kindling, or fire starters. Never use a flammable liquid, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline, to start a fire. They produce invisible vapors that can easily catch fire.

**10.4.6** Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.

**10.4.7** Allow ashes to cool before disposing of them. Place ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10 feet (3 metres) away from the home and any other nearby buildings. Never empty the ash directly into a trash can. Douse and saturate the ashes with water.

**10.4.8** Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

## **10.5 Fireplaces**

**10.5.1** Always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place. Gas fireplace doors can reach excessive temperatures of 1300 degrees Fahrenheit (705 degrees

Celsius). Serious burn injuries from hot glass can happen in less than one second. Install a screen barrier.

**10.5.2** Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Never burn trash in the fireplace. Not only is it cleaner for the environment, it also creates less buildup in the chimney.

**10.5.3** Use artificial fire logs according to manufacturer's recommendations. Never burn more than one log at a time.

**10.5.4** Use only newspaper and kindling wood or fire starters to start a fire. Never use flammable liquids, such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline, to start a fire. They produce invisible vapors that can easily catch fire.

**10.5.5** Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional at least once a year.

**10.5.6** Keep children and pets away from the outside vents. Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from the fireplace. Glass doors and screens can remain dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out.

**10.5.7** Closely supervise young children around fireplaces and use safety gates.

**10.5.8** Make sure fireplace "on" switches and remote controls are out of the reach of children.

## **10.6 Recreational Heating and Lighting**

**10.6.1** Fire pots, personal fireplaces, and patio torches use gel fuel and are considered open flames. Gel fuel is highly flammable. Extreme caution should be taken when using or adding fuel.

**10.6.2** Use chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, and fire pits outdoors only and at least 10 feet (3 metres) away from the home or anything that can burn.

**10.6.3** The use of sky lanterns is prohibited by National Fire Protection Association code requirements. The lanterns are made of oiled rice paper with a bamboo frame, materials that can easily catch on fire. A candle or wax fuel cell is used with the device. Once lit and airborne, a sky lantern can travel more than a mile. Wind can affect the sky lantern, blowing the sides, forcing the hot air out and sending the flaming lantern back to the ground. A flaming lantern can drop onto a rooftop, field, trees, or powerlines before the flame is fully extinguished. A destructive fire can result when a flaming lantern reaches the ground during dry conditions.

**10.6.4** Never leave a lit fire pot, personal fireplace, or torch unattended.

**10.6.5** Keep lit fire pots, personal fireplaces, and torches at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) from anything that can burn.

**10.6.6** Place the fire pot or personal fireplace on a sturdy surface.

**10.6.7** Make sure patio torches are secure and not in the path of people or pets.

**10.6.8** Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from fire pots, personal fireplaces, and torches.

**10.6.9** Be careful when reaching over fire pots, personal fireplaces, and torches—clothing or hair could catch fire.

**10.6.10** Use only gel fuel to refuel.

**10.6.11** Citronella fuel is intended for outdoor use only.

**10.6.12** Allow the device to cool for 30 to 45 minutes before refueling. Pouring gel fuel in a fire pot, personal fireplace, or torch that is not completely cool may result in a fire or injury.

**10.6.13** If gel fuel is spilled on clothing, remove the clothing and launder immediately.

**10.6.14** Store the gel fuel in its tightly sealed container away from heat sources and out of reach of children and pets.

**10.6.15** Stop, drop, and roll may not put out clothing that catches fire from splattered or spilled gel fuel. A dry chemical portable fire extinguisher can be used to extinguish the fire.

## 10.7 Central Heating

**10.7.1** Furnaces need to be inspected and serviced at least once a year by a qualified professional.

**10.7.2** Keep things that can burn at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from the furnace. Keep the furnace area clean and uncluttered.

**10.7.3** If you smell gas, do not light the appliance. Leave the building immediately and call 9-1-1, the fire department, or the gas company.

## CHAPTER 11 Smoking

**11.1.1** To prevent a smoking-related fire, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy, or have consumed alcohol.

**11.1.2** If you smoke, smoke outside.

**11.1.3** Never smoke in bed.

**11.1.4** Never smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

**11.1.5** Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays. If ashtrays are not

available, use a metal can or pail. Never empty smoking material directly into a trash can. Place the ashtrays or metal cans away from anything that can burn.

**11.1.6** Do not throw out cigarettes into vegetation, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, mulch, leaves, or other similar items—they can easily catch fire.

**11.1.7** Before you throw out butts and ashes, make sure they are out. Put them out in water or sand.

**11.1.8** Before going to bed, check under furniture cushions and around places where people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight.

**11.1.9** Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

**11.1.10** Fires have occurred while vaping products, including electronic cigarettes, were being used, the battery was being charged, or the device was being transported. Never leave charging e-cigarettes unattended. E-cigarettes should be used with caution.

can burn, including furniture, bedding, curtains, clothing, and flammable or combustible gases and liquids.

**12.1.4** Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.

**12.1.5** If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips often, find out why and get the problem corrected before turning the breaker back on or replacing the fuse. Have a qualified electrician inspect and fix it.

**12.1.6** Install tamper-resistant receptacles where needed. Tamper-resistant receptacles are required for new and replacement receptacles inside your home.

**NEW** **12.1.7** Major appliances (refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, microwave ovens, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord with a major appliance—it can easily overheat and start a fire.

**12.1.7.1** Small appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Unplug small appliances when not in use.

**12.1.8** Window air conditioners should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. Many manufacturers of room air conditioners prohibit the use of extension cords. If the manufacturer's instructions allow extension cords, follow the instructions for the proper type.

**12.1.9** Buy only appliances that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**12.1.10** Check electrical cords often. Replace cracked, damaged, and loose electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.

**12.1.11** Avoid putting cords under rugs and carpets, across doorways, or

## CHAPTER 12 Electrical

### 12.1 Inside the Home

**12.1.1** Electrical work should be done only by a qualified electrician. Some communities require that a person doing electrical work have a license. Find out about the laws in your area.

**NEW** **12.1.2** Have your home electrical system inspected by a qualified private inspector or in accordance with local requirements when buying, selling, or renovating a home.

**12.1.3** Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that

where they can be damaged or pinched by furniture.

**12.1.12** Use only surge protectors or power strips that have internal overload protection. Use surge protectors or power strips that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**12.1.13** Extension cords are for temporary use only. Have a qualified electrician determine if additional circuits or wall outlets are needed.

**12.1.14** Replace wall outlets if plugs do not fit snugly or the wall outlet does not accept plugs with one blade larger than the other.

**12.1.15** All wall outlets and switches should be covered with wall plates to prevent shocks.

**12.1.16** Call a qualified electrician if you have any of the following:

- (A) recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- (B) a tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- (C) discolored or warm wall outlets or switches
- (D) a burning smell or rubbery odor coming from an appliance
- (E) flickering lights
- (F) sparks from a wall outlet
- (G) cracked or broken wall outlets

**12.1.17** Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Have a qualified electrician install AFCIs in your home.

**12.1.18** Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) reduce the risk

of shock. GFCIs shut off electricity when it becomes a shock hazard. Make sure GFCIs are installed in bathrooms, basements, garages, outdoors, at kitchen counters, and in other locations in the home where electricity is near water.

**NEW!** **12.1.19** Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month according to manufacturer's recommendations.

## 12.2 Outside the Home

**12.2.1** Electrical work should be done by a qualified electrician.

**12.2.2** Keep ladders at least 10 feet (3 metres) away from overhead power lines. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders outdoors.

**12.2.3** Never touch a power line. You could be injured or electrocuted. Assume that all power lines are live. Stay at a safe distance.

**12.2.4** Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. You could be injured or electrocuted.

**12.2.5** Report downed power lines to authorities.

**12.2.6** Some power lines are underground. Call your local authority to have lines identified and marked before digging. You can also call the national 8-1-1 "Call before you dig" number.

## CHAPTER 13 Lightning

### 13.1 Indoor Safety

**13.1.1** Follow these guidelines during a lightning storm:

- (A) Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that

put you in direct contact with electricity.

- (B) Avoid washing your hands, showering, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.
- (C) Stay away from windows and doors.

## 13.2 Outdoor safety

**13.2.1** Follow these guidelines during a lightning storm:

- (A) Seek shelter immediately in a building or a hard-topped vehicle.
- (B) If you are in or on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.
- (C) If you cannot get to shelter and you feel your hair stand on end, indicating that lightning is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and put your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.

**13.2.2** If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 and get medical care immediately. Victims of lightning strikes carry no electrical charge, so attend to them immediately. Administer CPR if you know how and it is needed.

# CHAPTER 14 Candles

## 14.1 General Candle Safety

**14.1.1** Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.

**14.1.2** When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.

**14.1.3** Protect candle flames with glass chimneys or containers.

**14.1.4** Keep candles at least 12 inches (30 centimetres) from anything that can burn.

**14.1.5** Never leave a burning candle unattended. Burning candles can start a fire.

**14.1.6** Avoid using candles in bedrooms, bathrooms, and sleeping areas. Extinguish candles when you leave a room or the home or go to bed. Keep children and pets away from burning candles.

**14.1.7** Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing a candle.

**14.1.8** Never use a candle where medical oxygen is being used. The two can combine to create a large, unexpected fire. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

**14.1.9** Always use a flashlight—not a candle—for emergency lighting.

**14.1.10** Use only battery-powered lights in tents, trailers, motor homes, and boats.

## 14.2 Candle Use in Home Worship

**14.2.1** Lit candles are used in some religious rites and ceremonies in the

home. Candles should be used with care.

**14.2.2** Lit candles should not be placed in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them, causing a fire.

**14.2.3** Handheld candles should not be passed from one person to another at any time.

**14.2.4** To lower the risk of fire, candles should be used by only a few designated adults.

**14.2.5** Candles placed on or near tables, altars, or shrines must be maintained under the supervision of an adult.

**14.2.6** Place candles in sturdy, noncombustible candle holders that do not allow dripping wax to escape through the bottom of the holder.

**14.2.7** If a sturdy, noncombustible candle holder is not available, place the candle on a noncombustible plate.

**14.2.8** A handheld candle should be put out before the person holding it moves from the place of initial lighting. Once it is put out, the candle should be placed in an approved, noncombustible container.

**14.2.9** The best way to avoid getting burned from splashed wax is to use a candle snuffer instead of blowing on the flame.

## CHAPTER 15 Matches and Lighters

**15.1.1** Keep matches, lighters, and novelty lighters up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

**15.1.2** Purchase and use only child-resistant lighters.

**15.1.3** Lighters that look like toys can

confuse children and cause fires, injuries, and death. Do not buy or use them.

**15.1.4** Teach young children to tell a grown-up when they find matches or lighters and to never touch matches or lighters.

## CHAPTER 16 Outdoor Burning

**NEW** **16.1.1** Check with your local fire department or municipality for any restrictions before starting an open-air fire, recreational fire, or outdoor cooking fire. Obtain proper permits, if required. You might not be permitted to do outdoor burning in some municipalities and during some seasons (i.e., during burn bans).

**16.1.2** Closely supervise all outdoor fires. Make sure the fire is out before leaving.

**16.1.3** Supervise children around any fire outdoors, including campfires, fire pits, chimineas, and outdoor fireplaces.

**NEW** **16.1.4** Permitted open fires, such as bonfires, yard waste fires, trash fires, or debris burning, need to be at least 50 feet (15 metres) from anything that can burn.

**NEW** **16.1.5** Where outdoor burning is allowed, never burn plastics, construction debris, treated lumber, tires, or pesticide, paint, or aerosol containers. These items contain toxins that can be harmful to people and animals when burned.

**16.1.6** Permitted recreational fires such as campfires need to be at least 25 feet (8 metres) away from anything that can burn.

**NEW** **16.1.7** Avoid burning on windy, dry days. Embers from open burning can

ignite nearby structures or cause a wildfire.

**16.1.8** Where outdoor burning is allowed, never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.

**16.1.9** When burning, have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire.

**17.2.2** To prevent home ignitions from wildfire, start with the exterior of your home. Roofs can catch embers. Regularly clear debris from roof valleys and gutters.

**17.2.3** For new homes and home improvements, look for fire-resistant materials whenever possible. Building materials, including the roof, should be listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**17.2.4** Remove anything that can burn from around your home, deck, porch, or patio out to a minimum of 5 feet (1.5 metres). This includes mulch, dead leaves or pine needles, shrubs or other plants, wood piles, and material for construction projects.

**17.2.5** Any plant material that is 5 to 30 feet (1.5 to 9 metres) from your home should be well-watered and spaced to avoid fire moving from plant to plant. Remove dead material on and underneath landscape plants. Grass and weeds should be mowed to a height of no more than 2 to 3 inches (50 to 75 millimetres).

**17.2.6** Attic and garage vents should be screened with 1/8-inch (3-millimetres) metal mesh material, or a fire resistive vent design should be used to prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

## **NEW!** Chapter 17 Wildfires

### **17.1 Wildfire Prevention**

**17.1.1** Recognize when the danger of a wildfire starting and spreading is higher. High fire danger conditions include high winds, low humidity, drought, and elevated temperatures. Local authorities may issue a “red flag warning” to alert you to these conditions.

**17.1.2** Prevent ignitions by being careful with outdoor burning, including campfires, or avoiding any outdoor burning on high fire days. Comply with official burn bans.

**17.1.3** Avoid using lawn equipment on hot, dry, windy days.

**17.1.4** Do not throw out cigarettes into vegetation, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, mulch, leaves, or other similar items—they can easily catch fire.

**17.1.5** Make sure your vehicle’s tail pipe or towing chain does not drag or cause sparks.

### **17.2 Protecting Homes from Wildfires**

**17.2.1** Wildfires can spread to homes from blowing embers and flames. Maintain your home and landscape to reduce the chance of embers and flames igniting material on or near the home.

### **17.3 Community-wide Wildfire Safety**

**17.3.1** If a wildfire ignites a home within a neighborhood, the burning home presents a severe threat to neighboring homes. Encourage neighbors within a wildfire risk to work together to reduce their shared ignition risk.

**17.3.2** A wildfire may make it necessary for neighborhood residents to evacuate. Planning together with the local fire department and law enforcement authorities can save lives.

**17.3.3** To prepare for evacuation because of a wildfire, every household should:

- (A) Create a plan for evacuation. This should include knowing alternate routes out of the danger area and having prepacked kits with essentials such as medicine, family records, credit cards, a change of clothing and enough food and water for each household member for up to 72 hours.
- (B) Create a family communication plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation.
- (C) Prepare a plan for the care of pets and other animals.
- (D) Sign up for wildfire alerts. Get alerts when a wildfire is reported in your chosen ZIP code or within 30 miles of you.
- (E) Take steps to protect family, friends, or neighbors who have disabilities. People with disabilities sometimes require assistance and additional lead time in order to prepare for a disaster.

**17.3.4** Stay aware of local fire conditions and, if needed, be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. When told to evacuate, go promptly. If you feel unsafe, do not wait for an evacuation order — leave immediately. Do not return home until directed by emergency personnel.

## CHAPTER 18 Medical Oxygen

**NEW** **18.1.1** Medical oxygen can cause material to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

**18.1.2** A patient on oxygen should not smoke.

**NEW** **18.1.3** Never smoke where medical oxygen is used.

**18.1.4** Post “No Smoking” and “No Open Flames” signs inside and outside the home to remind residents and guests not to smoke.

**18.1.5** Keep oxygen cylinders at least 5 feet (1.5 metres) from a heat source, open flames, or electrical devices.

**18.1.6** Body oil, hand lotion, and items containing oil and grease can easily burn. Keep oil and grease away from where oxygen is in use.

**18.1.7** Never use aerosol sprays containing combustible materials near the oxygen.

**18.1.8** If medical oxygen or an oxygen tank is used in the home, the amount of oxygen in the air, furniture, clothing, hair, and bedding can increase, making it easier for a fire to spread. This means that there is a higher risk of fires and burns.

**NEW** **18.1.9** Where medical oxygen is in use, never use a sparking toy, an open flame such as a match or lighter, a fireplace or stove, or any other device fueled by gas, kerosene, wood, or coal.

## CHAPTER 19 Flammable and Combustible Liquids

**19.1.1** Flammable and combustible liquids, which include gasoline,

kerosene, lacquers, paint thinner, some cleaning fluids, hair spray, and paint solvents can be fire hazards because their vapors ignite easily. Even nail polish and nail-polish remover are flammable and should not be used near an open flame.

**19.1.2** Never smoke when you work with flammable or combustible liquids.

**19.1.3** Do not store hazardous liquids near any source of heat, sparks, or flame. That includes electric motors, which can spark when they switch on or off.

**19.1.4** Store gasoline in a tightly capped container that is specifically sold for the purpose. Store the container outside the home in your garage or garden shed, never in your basement.

**19.1.5** Use gasoline only as a motor fuel, never as a solvent or a degreaser and never as a substitute for charcoal lighter.

**19.1.6** Never bring gasoline indoors, even in small quantities.

**NEW** **19.1.7** Oily and solvent-wet rags can combust without a heat source. Store them in a tightly-sealed metal container, or hang them outside to dry in a shady location away from structures and then discard them.

**19.1.8** If you spill a flammable liquid on your clothing, place the clothing outside to dry before laundering.

**19.1.9** Keep oil-based paints and flammable and combustible solvents in their original containers and tightly capped — never store them in breakable glass containers.

**NEW** **19.1.10** When refueling any small motor, such as a lawnmower, snow blower, or string trimmer, make sure

the motor has cooled prior to adding fuel. Spilled fuel can easily ignite and cause serious burns.

## CHAPTER 20 Lithium Ion Batteries

### 20.1 General Tips

**20.1.1** Lithium ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices, including smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, and toys. Handle these batteries carefully. In rare instances, they can cause a fire or explosion.

**20.1.2** Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**20.1.3** Always follow manufacturer's instructions that come with the device.

**20.1.4** Only use the battery that is designed for the device.

**20.1.5** Put batteries in the device the right way.

**20.1.6** Only use the charging cord that came with the device.

**20.1.7** Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.

**NEW** **20.1.8** Avoid excessive charging. Constantly charging a device can reduce the battery's life or cause the battery to stop working.

**20.1.9** Keep lithium ion batteries at room temperature.

**20.1.10** Do not place lithium ion batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot vehicles.

**NEW** **20.1.11** Avoid using a device in a highly damp or humid environment.

**20.1.12** Store lithium ion batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

**NEW!** **20.1.13** Avoid crushing, bending, or dropping a device and charger.

**20.1.14** Stop using the lithium ion battery if you notice any of the following problem signs:

- (A) Odor
- (B) Change in color
- (C) Too much heat
- (D) Change in shape
- (E) Leaking
- (F) Odd noises

If it is safe to do so, move the device outside and away from anything that can catch fire. Call the manufacturer or your fire department's non-emergency number.

## **20.2 Battery Disposal**

**20.2.1** Do not put lithium ion batteries in the trash.

**20.2.2** Do not put discarded lithium ion batteries in piles.

**20.2.3** Recycling lithium ion batteries is always the best option.

**20.2.3.1** Take lithium ion batteries to a recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.

## **20.3 High-Tech Luggage**

**20.3.1** Take precautions if you are using "smart" luggage with non-removable lithium ion batteries. The powerful batteries can potentially overheat and pose a fire hazard during airplane flights. Some airlines no longer accept this luggage, either as checked or carry-on.

**20.3.2** In some instances, "smart" bags with removable batteries can be allowed on a flight if the battery can be removed on site and taken on board

with the passenger. Check with your airline for restrictions.

## **20.4 Hover boards**

**20.4.1** Many hover boards have been linked to fires. Some of these fires have involved the lithium battery charger. Exercise caution if you are using these devices.

**20.4.2** Choose a device that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

**20.4.3** Read and follow manufacturer's directions.

**20.4.4** An adult should be responsible for charging a hover board.

**20.4.5** Do not leave a charging hover board unattended.

**20.4.6** Never leave the hover board plugged in overnight.

**20.4.7** Only use the charging cord that came with the hover board.

**20.4.8** Stop using the hover board if it overheats.

**20.4.9** Signs that you could have a problem with your hover board include the following:

- (A) Leaking fluids
- (B) Excessive heat
- (C) Odor
- (D) Sparking
- (E) Smoke

If you notice any of these signs, stop using the device right away and call 9-1-1. If it is safe to do so, move the hover board outside and away from anything that can burn.

# CHAPTER 21 Portable Fire Extinguishers and Firefighting

## 21.1 General Tips

**NEW** 21.1.1 As a general rule, firefighting should be left to professional firefighters. Fire extinguishers are meant for putting out small fires or used to help escape from the area, not firefighting large out-of-control fires.

**NEW** 21.1.2 Only those who are trained or know how to use a portable fire extinguisher should use one.

**NEW** 21.1.3 Only those who are trained or know how to use a portable fire extinguisher can recognize an approved one.

**NEW** 21.1.4 Before trying to put out or contain a fire, be sure that:

- You know how to use the fire extinguisher and it is the correct type.
- Everyone else is leaving the home and someone is calling the fire department.
- The fire is small, confined, and not spreading.
- You have a clear escape route and will not be overcome by smoke or toxic fumes.

**NEW** 21.1.5 If the fire does not go out after using one extinguisher, back out of the area, close the door if possible, and get safely outside and call 9-1-1.

**NEW** 21.1.6 If you have portable fire extinguishers, inspect them once a month and have them serviced annually by certified personnel. Check to see if your fire extinguisher is under any U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls.

21.1.7 Where portable fire extinguishers are installed in the home, follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.

21.1.8 As a general rule, where portable fire extinguishers are installed, a person should not have to travel more than 40 feet (12 metres) to reach one and never have to travel up or down stairs to reach it.

21.1.9 As a general rule, portable fire extinguishers for the home should have a rating of at least 2-A:10B.

## 21.2 Portable Fire Extinguishers and Children

**NEW** 21.2.1 NFPA believes that children should not be trained how to operate portable fire extinguishers. Teaching children to use portable fire extinguishers runs counter to NFPA messaging to get out and stay out if there is a fire. Furthermore, children may not have the maturity to operate a portable fire extinguisher properly or decide whether or not a fire is small enough to be put out by the extinguisher. They may not have the physical ability to handle the extinguisher or dexterity to perform the complex actions required to put out a fire. In the process of extinguishing flames, children may not know how to respond if the fire spreads. NFPA continues to believe that only adults who know how to operate portable fire extinguishers should use them.

## CHAPTER 22 Clothes Dryers

**22.1.1** Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.

**22.1.2** Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.

**22.1.3** Clean out the dryer’s lint filter before each use of the dryer. Remove the lint that has collected around the drum.

**22.1.4** Clean lint out of the vent pipe quarterly or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you. If you notice that it is taking longer than usual for your clothes to dry, it should be cleaned more often.

**22.1.5** Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time to reduce the risk of fire or fire spread.

**22.1.6** Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating.

**22.1.7** Make sure the correct plug and wall outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.

**22.1.8** Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.

**22.1.9** Follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions. Do not overload the dryer.

**22.1.10** Turn off the dryer when you leave home or go to bed.

**NEW!** **22.1.11** Choose a dryer that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

## SECTION 2

### **EDUCATIONAL MESSAGES FOR CHILDREN\* FROM THE LEARN NOT TO BURN® CURRICULUM**

## CHAPTER 23 Messages for Preschoolers

\*These messages are written for children ages 3 to 5.

### **Firefighters are Community Helpers**

1. Firefighters help the community stay safe from fire.
2. Firefighters wear special clothes and equipment to help them stay safe from fire and smoke.
3. The equipment can look and sound scary, but it keeps the firefighter safe.
4. We do not need to be afraid of firefighters even though their equipment can look and sound scary.

### **When You Hear a Smoke Alarm, Get Outside and Stay Outside**

1. Smoke alarms are very important.
2. A smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire in your home.
3. Most smoke alarms make a loud “beep, beep, beep” sound if there is smoke.
4. When you hear the smoke alarm, get outside and stay outside until a grown-up says it’s safe to go back inside.

### **Practice a Fire Drill with Your Family**

1. The smoke alarm makes a “beep, beep, beep” sound.
2. If you hear “beep, beep, beep,” get up and walk. Do not run, but walk quickly.

3. Know two ways out of every room.
4. Get yourself outside quickly.
5. Go to your outside meeting place with your family.

### **Stay Away from Hot Things**

1. Stay away from hot things. Do not touch them.
2. Do not touch things that are sometimes hot.
3. Do not touch matches or lighters. Matches and lighters are dangerous and can be hot.
4. Walk away and tell a grown-up if you see matches and lighters.
5. Only grown-ups should use matches and lighters.

### **Tell a Grown-up If you See Matches and Lighters**

1. Stay away from hot things. Do not touch them.
2. Do not touch matches or lighters. Matches and lighters are dangerous and can be hot.
3. Walk away and tell a grown-up if you find matches or lighters.
4. Only grown-ups should use matches and lighters.

4. A smoke alarm will make a loud “beep, beep, beep (pause), beep, beep, beep (pause)” sound if there is smoke.
5. If the smoke alarm sounds, everyone should get outside. Stay outside until a grown-up says it is safe to go back inside.

### **Get Outside, Stay Outside**

1. Here are five important things to do if the smoke alarm sounds:
  - NEW!** (A) Get up and walk. Do not run, but walk as fast as you can.
  - NEW!** (B) Learn two ways out of every room. It may be two doors or a door and a window.
  - (C) Get yourself outside quickly. Do not stop to pick up toys or pets.
  - (D) Wait at your outside meeting place with your family.
  - (E) Stay at the outside meeting place until help arrives or a grown-up says it is safe to go inside.

### **Fire Drills at School**

1. When the alarm sounds, stop what you are doing and listen for instruction from your teacher or principal.
2. Go quickly and quietly to your meeting place outside the school. Stay outside.
3. Be sure to stay with your classmates. Your teacher will take attendance to make sure all students are safe.

### **Stay Away from Hot Things**

1. There are things inside and outside the home that are hot or can get hot.

## **CHAPTER 24 Messages for Kindergarteners**

### **Smoke Alarms are Important**

1. You need smoke alarms in your home.
2. Having a smoke alarm in your bedroom is important so the alarm will beep where you sleep.
3. A smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire in your home.

2. Things that are hot can burn and hurt you.
3. Stay away from hot things. Do not touch them.
4. If an item might be hot, stay away and ask a grown-up for help.
5. Things that are hot or could be hot include bath water, soup, stoves, radiators, flat irons, curling irons, fireplace irons, coffee, matches, lighters, and many other items.
6. Do not touch matches or lighters. Tell a grown-up if you find matches or lighters.

### **Matches and Lighters are for Grown-ups**

1. Stay away from hot things. Do not touch them.
2. Do not touch matches or lighters. Matches and lighters are dangerous and can be hot.
3. Walk away and tell a grown-up if you find matches or lighters.
4. Only grown-ups should use matches and lighters.

### **Firefighters are Community Helpers**

1. Firefighters help the community stay safe from fire.
2. Firefighters wear special gear (clothes and equipment) to help them stay safe from fire.
3. The equipment can look and sound scary, but it keeps the firefighter safe.
4. We do not need to be afraid of firefighters even though their equipment can look and sound scary.

## **CHAPTER 25 Messages for Grade 1**

### **Smoke Alarms are Important**

1. A smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire in your home.
2. It will make a loud “beep, beep, beep (pause), beep, beep, beep (pause)” sound if there is smoke.
3. If the smoke alarm sounds, everyone should leave the home right away.
4. You need smoke alarms in your home.

### **Get Outside, Stay Outside**

1. Every room needs two ways out.
2. One way out would be the door and the second way out might be a window.
3. Make sure your bedroom or where you sleep has a smoke alarm so you will wake up quickly and be able to use the door to get outside. You must be able to hear the “beep, beep, beep” of the smoke alarm wherever you sleep.
4. It is important to have a meeting place outside the home. A good meeting place might be a neighbor’s home, a special tree, a neighborhood store next door, a mailbox, or a street light.
5. If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and go to your meeting place. Wait for your family to meet you. Grown-ups will know that everyone is safe.
6. It is important that after hearing the smoke alarm you get outside and stay outside.

## Report an Emergency

1. The fire department is a community helper.
2. The fire department will help if there is an emergency. An emergency could be a fire or it could be someone in your home who is sick or hurt.
- NEW!** 3. Remember, you call the fire department only in an emergency. Calling the fire department when there is no emergency could cause others to not get the help they need.
4. The number to call for our fire department is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Stay Away from Hot Things

1. There are things inside and outside the home that are hot or can get hot.
2. Things that are hot or can get hot include bathtub water, soup, stoves, radiators, fireplaces, matches, lighters, flat irons, coffee, and many more things.
3. Stay away from anything that is hot or could be hot. This means: Do not touch anything that could be hot.
4. If you are unsure if something is hot, you should stay away from it and check with a grown-up.
5. Things that are hot can burn and hurt you.

## Fire Drills at School

1. When the alarm sounds:
  - (A) Stop what you are doing.
  - (B) Listen for instructions from your teacher or principal.
  - (C) Go quickly and quietly to your meeting place outside the school.

- (D) Be sure to stay with your classmates. Your teacher will take attendance to make sure all students are safe.

## Know When to Stop, Drop, and Roll

1. Stay away from fire. Fire from a match, lighter, fireplace, or grill could catch clothes on fire.
2. Clothes on fire can cause a bad burn and hurt very much.
3. If your clothes catch fire: (Also: When fire gets on clothes:)
  - (A) Stop where you are.
  - (B) Drop to the ground – lay flat with your legs out straight and cover your eyes and mouth with your hands.
  - (C) Roll over and over and back and forth until the flames are out.
  - (D) Get help from a grown-up who will cool the burn and get medical help.
4. The most important thing to remember is to stay away from fire. It can catch your clothes on fire. Use “stop, drop, and roll” only if your clothes are on fire.

## CHAPTER 26 Messages for Grade 2

### Smoke Alarms are Important

1. A smoke alarm will let people know if there is a fire in their home.
2. Every home needs working smoke alarms.
3. If there is smoke, the smoke alarm will make a loud “beep, beep, beep (pause), beep, beep, beep (pause)” sound.

4. Make sure there is a smoke alarm where people sleep so they will wake up quickly and be able to get outside. Everyone must be able to hear the “beep, beep, beep” of the smoke alarm wherever they sleep.
5. Here are four important things to do if the smoke alarm sounds:
  - (A) Stop what you are doing.
  - (B) Choose the best way out of the room.
  - (C) Get outside quickly.
  - (D) Go to your outside meeting place.

### **Plan and Practice Your Home Fire Escape Drill**

1. Every room needs two ways out.
2. One way out would be the door and the second way out might be a window.
3. It is important to have a meeting place outside the home. A good meeting place might be a neighbor’s home, a special tree, a mailbox, or a street light.
4. A home fire escape plan is a plan to get out of the home quickly in case there is a fire.
5. Families should practice their home fire escape drill at least twice a year.
6. It is important to know the home fire escape plan in each home where you sleep. It could be the home of a family member or a friend’s house, but you should know the two ways out of each room and the outside meeting place in case there is a fire while you are visiting.

### **Report an Emergency**

1. The fire department will help if there is an emergency. Examples of an

emergency include fire and serious injury.

2. Remember, you call the fire department only in an emergency. Calling the fire department when there is no emergency could cause others to not get the help they need. It can also put firefighters in danger needlessly.
3. When the fire department answers the phone, tell them:
  - (A) The type of emergency.
  - (B) Your name.
  - (C) The location that you are calling from.
  - (D) The telephone number from where you are calling.
4. Stay on the telephone until the fire department tells you to hang up.

### **Stay Away from Hot Things**

1. There are things inside and outside that are hot or can get hot.
2. Things that are hot or can get hot include bath water, a stove, a fireplace, coffee, soup, matches, lighters, and many other things.
3. Stay away from hot things. Do not touch them. If you are unsure if something is hot, stay away and check with a grown-up.
4. Do not touch matches or lighters. Matches and lighters are dangerous and can be hot.
5. Walk away and tell a grown-up if you find matches or lighters.
6. Only grown-ups should use matches and lighters.

### **Kid-Free Zones at Home**

1. Things that get hot can cause serious burns.

2. There should be a 3-foot (1 metre) “kid-free zone” around the stove, oven, and heating sources.
3. Remind grown-ups to keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from hot things.
4. Only grown-ups should be around items that are hot or could get hot.

### **Know When to Stop, Drop, and Roll**

1. “Stop, drop, and roll” is used when clothing catches fire.
2. If your clothes catch fire: (Also: When fire gets on clothes:)
  - (A) Stop where you are.
  - (B) Drop to the ground and cover your eyes and mouth with your hands.
  - (C) Roll over and over and back and forth until the flames are out.
  - (D) Get help from a grown-up who will cool the burn and get medical help.

For additional age-designated messaging go to [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org).

## **SECTION 3**

### **CHAPTER 27 Easy-to-Read Messages**

These messages are written for audiences that have limited English proficiency.

#### **Home Smoke Alarms**

1. A smoke alarm will let you know there is a fire in your home.
2. You need a smoke alarm in each bedroom.

3. You need a smoke alarm on each level of your home.
4. You need a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area.
5. Push the test button at least once a month to make sure the smoke alarm is working.
6. If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside the home right away. Call 9-1-1 or the fire department from outside.

#### **Carbon Monoxide**

1. Carbon monoxide is a gas. You cannot see it, taste it, or smell it. It is created when fuels do not burn completely. Kerosene, gasoline, coal, natural gas, propane, and wood are examples of fuels. Carbon monoxide can make you very sick or kill you.
2. A carbon monoxide alarm will let you know if high levels of the gas are in your home.
3. You need a carbon monoxide alarm outside bedrooms.
4. You need a carbon monoxide alarm on each level of your home.
5. Push the test button each month to make sure the alarm is working.
6. If you hear the carbon monoxide alarm, get outside the home right away. Call for help from outside.

#### **Cooking**

1. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
2. Keep things that can catch fire away from the stove.
3. Never cook when you are tired.
4. Keep kids and pets at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from the stove area.

- NEW!** 5. To put out a pan fire, slide a lid over the pan. Turn off the stove and let the pan cool. Do not move the pan.
- 6. If you have a fire in your oven, turn off the heat. Keep the door closed until it is cool.
- 7. If you have a fire that does not go out, get outside the home right away. Call 9-1-1 or the fire department from outside.

### **Heating**

- 1. Have your furnace cleaned every year.
- 2. Have your chimney serviced every year.
- 3. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet (1 metre) from things that can burn.
- 4. Turn space heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- 5. Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet.
- 6. Never use your oven to heat your home.
- 7. Keep children at least 3 feet (1 metre) from fireplaces, heating stoves, and space heaters.
- 8. Use the correct fuel for fuel-burning space heaters.
- 9. Choose heaters that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

### **Smoking**

- 1. If you smoke, smoke outside.
- 2. Keep lighters, matches, and smoking materials up high out of the reach of children. Put them in a locked cabinet.
- 3. Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Place it away from anything that can burn.
- 4. Do not drop cigarettes into plants, grass, or mulch.

- 5. Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out. Put them in water or sand.
- 6. Never smoke where medical oxygen is used.
- 7. E-cigarettes and vaping products should be used very carefully.
- 8. Stay in the room when you charge an e-cigarette or vaping product.

### **Electrical**

- 1. Keep things that can burn, like curtains, clothes, and paper, away from lamps and light bulbs.
- 2. Plug appliances directly into a wall outlet.
- 3. Use only one appliance in a wall outlet at a time.
- 4. Heavy things placed on top of an electrical cord can wear out the cord and start a fire.
- 5. Do not run cords under carpets where people may walk on them.
- 6. Use a light bulb with the right number of watts.
- 7. Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.

This desk reference includes educational messages that are used throughout NFPA's educational programs, curricula, and handouts. This document provides safety educators with accurate and consistent language for use when offering fire and burn safety information to the public.



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