



Baton Rouge General

Regional Burn Center

FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME



HEATING SAFETY

- The heating system is cleaned and serviced by a professional every year.
- Furniture and other items that can catch fire are at least 3 feet from fireplaces, wall heaters, baseboards and space heaters.
- Fireplace and barbecue ashes are placed outdoors in a covered metal container at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire.
- Space heaters are plugged directly into a wall outlet.
- Heaters are approved by a national testing laboratory and have tip-over shut-off function.

SMOKING SAFETY

- Family members who smoke only buy fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.
- Matches and lighters are kept in a locked place where children cannot see or touch them.
- Ashtrays are large, deep and kept away from items that can catch fire.
- Ashtrays are emptied into a container that will not burn.

HOME ESCAPE PLAN

- Have two ways out of each room.
- Know to crawl low to the floor when escaping to avoid poisonous smoke.
- Know that once you're out, stay out.
- Know where to meet after the escape.
- Meeting place should be near the front of your home, so firefighters know you are out.
- Practice your fire escape plan.

COOKING SAFETY

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- Keep an eye on what you fry.
- Cooking area is free from items that can catch fire.
- Kitchen stove hood is clean and vented to the outside.
- Pots are not left unattended on the stove.

CANDLE SAFETY

- Candles are in sturdy fire proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- Blow out all candles when adults leave the room or go to bed.
- Children and pets are never left alone with candles.

SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

- There is **1** smoke alarm on every level of the home.
- There is **1** smoke alarm inside and outside each sleeping area.
- Smoke alarms are tested and cleaned monthly.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

ELECTRICAL & APPLIANCE SAFETY...

- Electrical cords do not run under rugs.
- Electrical cords are in good condition.
- Circuit-protected, multi-prong adapters are used for additional outlets.
- Large and small appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Clothes dryer lint filter and venting system are clean.

Being prepared will help limit the risk of starting a fire and avoid getting hurt in the event of a fire.

READ ON TO LEARN MORE

COOK SAFELY

WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!

Cooking is the biggest cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!



Keep an Eye on What You Fry

- Stand by your pan.
- If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Watch what you are cooking.
- Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.



Be a Safe Cook

- Make sure you are awake and alert. Alcohol and some drugs can make you sleepy.
- Wear short sleeves or roll them up so they don't catch on fire.
- Keep your hair and clothes away from the burner.



Be Prepared When Cooking

- Make the cooking area safe.
- Clean and clear the area around the stove.
- Move things that can burn away from the stove. This includes dish towels, bags, boxes, paper and curtains.
- Make sure children and pets stay at least 3 feet away from a hot stove.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Then no one can bump them or pull them over.
- Keep a pan lid or a baking sheet nearby. Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.



What to Do if Your Pan is on Fire

- Act fast.
- Keep the pan where it is. Do not move it!
- Slide the pan lid or a baking sheet on top of the pan.
- Turn the burner off. Keep the lid on the pan until it is cool.
- Never try to stop a grease or oil fire with water.



When in Doubt, Just Get Out

- Get everyone outside.
- Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from outside.
- Never go back inside a burning building.

OUTDOOR COOKING AND GRILLING

Whether you're hosting a backyard barbecue or tailgating before the big game, there's nothing quite like cooking on a grill. But before you fire it up, however, make sure you're cooking in a smart, safe manner.

Supervise children closely and keep matches and lighters out of reach.

Never grill in an enclosed area since carbon monoxide can build up.

If you're cooking with a propane grill, be sure the fuel line is properly connected to the propane tank.

Don't add lighter fluid to an already lit fire. The flames could flash back into the container, causing it to explode.

Never dispose of coals in paper, plastic or wooden containers.

Douse coals with plenty of water and stir them to make sure the fire is completely out.



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: What You Should Know

Home fires are often unpredictable and they can be fatal. That's why every home should have a fire extinguisher on each level of the house as well as one in the garage. It's also a good idea to keep smaller units in the kitchen and car.

Fire extinguishers designed for the home range in price from a single-use model (about \$25) to a heavy-duty rechargeable model (about \$75). They can be found at home improvement stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot. Although heavier models are harder to hold, you should buy the largest one you can comfortably handle.

If it becomes necessary to use it, you certainly won't have time to read the instructions. Here is a simple acronym that will help you remember how to operate most fire extinguishers:

PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep

- 1. Pull** the pin at the top of the cylinder. Some units require releasing a lock latch or pressing a puncture lever.
- 2. Aim** the nozzle at the base of the fire.
- 3. Squeeze** or press the handle.
- 4. Sweep** the contents from side to side at the base of the fire until it goes out.



PUT SMOKE ALARMS IN YOUR HOME TO KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE!

1. Smoke is poison. It can kill you.
2. Smoke alarms make a loud noise when there is smoke in your home.
3. Smoke alarms wake you up if you are sleeping.
4. Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.

5. Put a smoke alarm inside every bedroom.
6. Smoke goes up. Put smoke alarms on the ceiling or high on the wall.

Make Sure Your Smoke Alarms Work

1. Your family is not safe if they can't hear them.

2. Test your smoke alarms. Push the test button. You will hear a loud noise.
3. If you don't hear the noise, you need a new battery or a new alarm. Fix this immediately.

4. Make sure the smoke alarm always has a good battery. Put a new battery in the alarm every year. Smoke alarms with long-life batteries will work for up to 10 years. You do not change the battery.
5. Smoke alarms do not last forever. Get new smoke alarms every 10 years.

Through the **Fire Prevention Bureau**, the Baton Rouge Fire Department has a smoke detector installation program for elderly and handicapped. The Bureau is also responsible for conducting home "fire safety" inspections.

If you or someone you know needs a smoke detector and/or a home inspection, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at **(225) 354-1431**.

Smoke alarms save lives.

More Fire Facts



Almost 2,500 people die in home fires every year in the United States. Most of these people live in homes that do not have working smoke alarms.



\$2 billion in property loss occurs each year from winter home fires.



Winter home fires account for only 8 percent of the total number of fires in the U.S., but result in **30% of all fire deaths**.



Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.



A heat source too close to combustibles is the leading factor contributing to the start of a **15% of winter home fires**.

Source: National Fire Incident Reporting System 2010-2012

BE READY, MAKE AN ESCAPE PLAN

When you hear a smoke alarm, you only have about **3 minutes** to get everyone outside and safe.



- ✓ Tell your family what to do if they hear the smoke alarm.
- ✓ Make an escape plan so everyone knows how to get out fast.
- ✓ Pick a meeting place outside of your home where everyone will meet.
- ✓ Some children and older adults cannot hear the smoke alarm when they are sleeping. Make a plan for how to wake them up.
- ✓ Practice your escape plan with everyone in your family 2 times each year.

Use Your Escape Plan if There is a Fire

1. Go to your outside meeting place immediately.
2. Call 911 or the fire department from outside.
3. Never go back inside a burning building.



When a person is severely burned, every second counts.

In fact, patients who are burned and receive immediate medical care typically have more favorable outcomes and a 94% survival rate.

Baton Rouge General is the American Burn Association's only verified Regional Burn Center in the region and the Region 2 designated HazMat response hospital with nearest centers in Texas and Florida. This is of critical importance to Louisiana's responsible planning and expansion of petrochemical, manufacturing, and oil and gas industries currently employing nearly 300,000 workers across the state.

Did You Know?

Over the past 3 years, BRG treated patients from more than 150 zip codes with all aspects of injuries resulting from flame, scald, electrical, chemical, hot substances and radiation that stemmed from house fires to hurricanes to occupational accidents.



"Families should always practice fire safety at home. Being prepared is important, but prevention is even smarter."

– Dr. Tracee Short, Medical Director, BRG Regional Burn Center

BRGeneral.org/Burn