

## Did You Know...?

The United States has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world.

As many as two-thirds of fires caused by heating your home are started by portable and fixed space heaters.

If you have at least one working smoke alarm you can reduce your chance of dying in a home fire by up to 45 percent.

Smoking materials like smoldering cigarettes and ashtrays are still the leading cause of fatal fires in the United States.

Nationally, fire departments responded to over 377,000 residential fires. Structure fires caused almost 11 billion dollars in damage and led to over 3,000 civilian deaths. (2009 NFPA)

A residential fire occurs every 84 seconds in this country.

**IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY,  
CALL  
9-1-1**

To learn more about fire and injury prevention, please visit [www.choosekent.com/fireprevention](http://www.choosekent.com/fireprevention) and click on "Public Education," or call us at 253.856.4480



# Home Fire Prevention

**Kent Fire Department  
Regional Fire Authority  
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Kent, Washington 98030**

# Prevention

All disasters like earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and fires that displace a family from their home are devastating. **But out of the five, there is only one that can be prevented by humans.** That disaster is fire. Even though fire is preventable, it is responsible for more American deaths than all natural disasters combined. Although some fires like forest fires seem uncontrollable, there are several precautionary actions you can take to prevent a fire in your home.

## Where Do Fires Start?



**Unattended cooking** is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.



**A spark** that flies from a fireplace not protected by a screen or glass doors can ignite flooring materials like carpet, vinyl, or wood.



**A book of matches**, a lighter, or a smoldering cigarette left in an ashtray can be inviting to a child and can lead to burns as well as start a deadly fire.



**An overloaded outlet** with too many cords plugged into it can quickly develop into a house fire.



**A clothes dryer's lint collector** which has not been cleaned regularly can lead to overheating, which can start a fire.

✂️ Clip and save for reference.

# Home Fire Prevention Checklist

### OUTSIDE

- Home address is visible from the street during the day and night.
- For long driveways, house number is posted where driveway meets street.
- A safe family meeting place outside the home has been established.

### FRONT DOOR

- No double key-locking dead bolts.
- No clutter around the door, making it hard to get out.

### SMOKE ALARMS

- One on every level, in hallways leading to sleeping areas, and one inside each bedroom.
- Tested Monthly.
- Batteries are changed annually.
- Vacuumed annually.
- Replaced every 10 years.
- Chirping smoke alarms need new batteries.
- If you have tried new batteries and cleaning it, and it still does not work—

### REPLACE IT!

### LAUNDRY ROOM

- Clean lint trap after every use.
- Vacuum back of dryer, lint trap and vent twice yearly.
- Use appropriate electrical outlets for your washer and dryer.

### KITCHEN

- No clutter on the stove.
- Small appliances are turned off and unplugged when not in use.
- Toasters are kept away from clutter.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking, never leave cooking unattended.
- Pot handles are turned inward.
- Put a lid on stovetop fires.
- Oven fires are stopped by closing the door and turning off the heat.

### HALLWAYS

- Halls are clear of debris.

### BEDROOMS

- Door closed when sleeping.
- No smoking in bed.
- Escape ladder—if on upper floor.
- Combustibles kept away from heaters.

### GARAGE

- Electrical items are unplugged.
- Rags stored away from flammable liquids.
- No more than five gallons of gas stored in a proper container.
- No clutter near heat source.

### LIVING ROOM

- Screen or glass doors are installed and used in front of the fireplace.
- 911 stickers and home address are placed on or near all telephones.

### ELECTRICAL

- Electrical cords are in good condition with no cracks or frays.
- Electrical outlets are not overloaded.

### OTHER

- Matches, lighters, and smoking materials are kept out of reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- A working fire extinguisher is kept on hand and occupants know how to use it.
- Always call 911 if there is a fire.

Facts from the NFPA and U.S. Fire Academy:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov/safety/facts.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/safety/facts.html)