












HOME FIRE SAFETY

How To Make Your Home Fire-Safe

Fire is perhaps the most dangerous and deadly of all home emergencies. Protecting your home from accidental fire is one of the most important things you will ever do for yourself and your family. Let this checklist be your guide for making sure that your home is safe from accidental fire.

Fire Prevention Checklist

Hazard Prevention

-  Keep burnable materials away from heat sources such as chimneys, water heaters, radiators, portable heaters, etc.
-  Store burnable materials away from stairways and walkways (if a fire did break out, they could block your exit). Do not store, use, or carry flammable liquids in open containers.
-  Clean ovens, rangetops, and exhaust fans to keep them free of grease.
-  Make sure that all electrical appliances have been approved by a testing lab (such as Underwriters' Laboratory).
-  Replace worn or frayed cords, plugs, or wiring immediately (or have them repaired by a licensed electrician). Turn off gas pilots when working with flammable adhesives.
-  Never overload circuits.
-  Inspect chimneys and flues regularly to be sure they are in working order.
-  Never leave an open flame unattended.
-  Quench fireplace and barbecue fires completely before retiring. (Even if there is no visible flame, hot embers can re-ignite.)
-  Never smoke in bed or when drowsy.
-  Never empty ashtrays into a wastebasket—keep a can filled with baking soda to dispose of butts, or douse them first with water.

Safe Practices

- Install *at least* one smoke detector on each floor of your home.
- Vacuum smoke detectors monthly to keep them dust-free.
- Inspect detectors monthly to ensure that batteries and lights work.
- Make sure that security gates and window guards can be opened easily from within the home.
- Establish escape routes from every floor of your home and know where to meet outside.
- If you do not have a fire-escape, keep portable escape ladders on the upper floors of your home.
- Have regular home fire drills.
- Keep a multi-purpose fire extinguisher on each level of your home—and learn how to use it.
- In the event your clothing should catch fire, *stop* what you're doing, *drop* to the floor, and *roll* around until flames are extinguished.

HOME FIRE EMERGENCIES

Would You Know What To Do?

If an accidental fire broke out in your home, would you know what to do? Being able to react quickly—and appropriately—in a fire emergency can literally mean the difference between life and death. Take a few minutes to review the following guidelines with your entire family. You're never too young, or too old, to learn how to save your life.

If It's Small, Smother It

If you are absolutely certain that a small fire poses no immediate threat, you may be able to put it out before it causes damage. Remember, fires require fuel, oxygen, and heat to burn. Small, contained fires (such as a grease fire in a cooking pan) can often be put out



Smother small grease fires with baking soda or a dry-chemical extinguisher—*never* use water.

promptly by cutting off the oxygen supply and smothering the flames. For grease fires, turn off the stove or oven, cover the pan (if possible) or use baking soda to douse the flames. For small electrical fires, unplug the appliance immediately and use a multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher. **NEVER USE WATER ON GREASE OR ELECTRICAL FIRES.**

If It's Not, Evacuate!

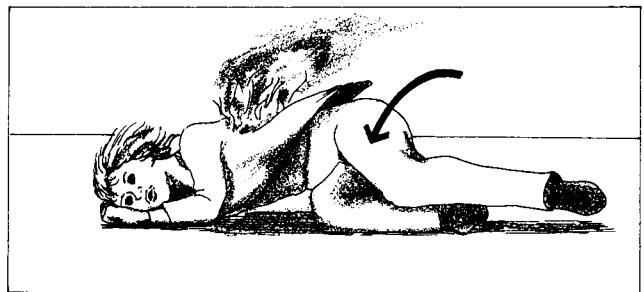
If you are in *any* doubt whatsoever about the severity of a home fire, get out! Every member of your family should know your fire escape plans—what route to take, alternatives if that route is blocked, and where to meet outside. If there is a great deal of smoke, stay as close to the floor as possible to avoid breathing potentially toxic smoke. Don't open any door that feels warm to the touch. Once outside, call the fire department immediately, and do not re-enter the house.



If you are in *any* doubt whatsoever about the severity of a home fire, get out! Then, call the fire department immediately.

Stop, Drop, and Roll

If your clothing should catch fire, do not panic and do not run! Running actually fans the flames increasing your risk of serious injury. Instead, *stop* what you are doing, *drop* to the floor, and *roll* around until the flames are extinguished. (If you have small children, it may help to practice the stop, drop, and roll "game" until it becomes second nature to them. Often, a child's first instinct is to run away when his or her clothes catch fire.)



If your clothes catch fire—stop, drop, and roll.

Practice Fire Safety

To protect your loved ones, be fire-safe. You can begin by correcting fire hazards *before* they become fire emergencies. But, if fire should strike, be prepared. Make sure you all know your family escape plans, the locations of emergency equipment (escape ladders, fire extinguishers), and where to meet outside. Remember, if you are *ever* in doubt about the seriousness of a home fire, get out!



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FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Choosing The Right Extinguisher

Several small fires can be contained and extinguished before they can cause damage to persons or property if the right fire extinguisher is used. Fires are rated A, B, C, or D, depending upon the type of "fuel" that is burning. Fire extinguishers are rated according to the type of fire they can put out. This information is listed prominently on the extinguisher. Take a moment to learn the four types of fires so that you'll know which extinguisher to use if you find yourself in a fire emergency.

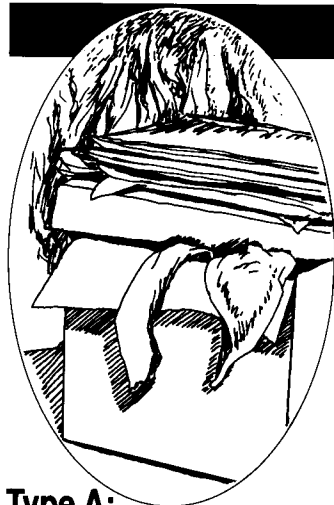
Fire Extinguisher Codes

Fire extinguishers come in many varieties—water, carbon dioxide, dry chemical or powder, and liquified gas. Fire extinguishers are coded to reflect the type of fire they can put out: "A" (green label); "B" (red label); "C" (blue label); and "D" (yellow label). Newer extinguishers have picture codes showing the type (or types) of fires they can be used on.

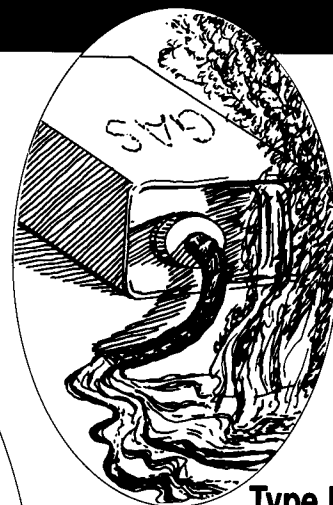


TYPES OF FIRES

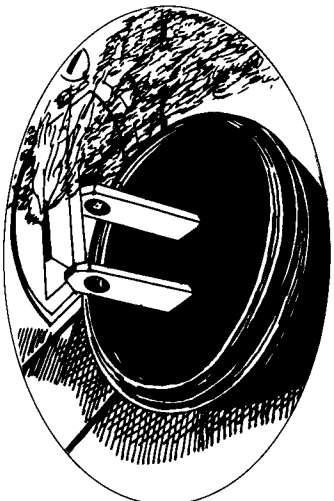
Be sure to use the right extinguisher for the type of fire you are confronting. Using the wrong extinguisher can actually make the fire worse.



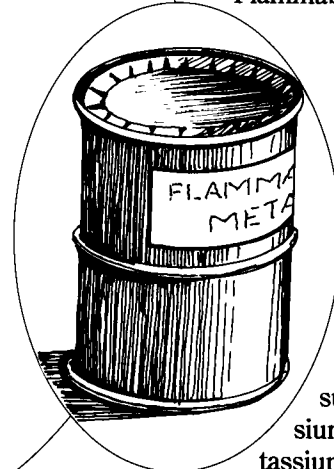
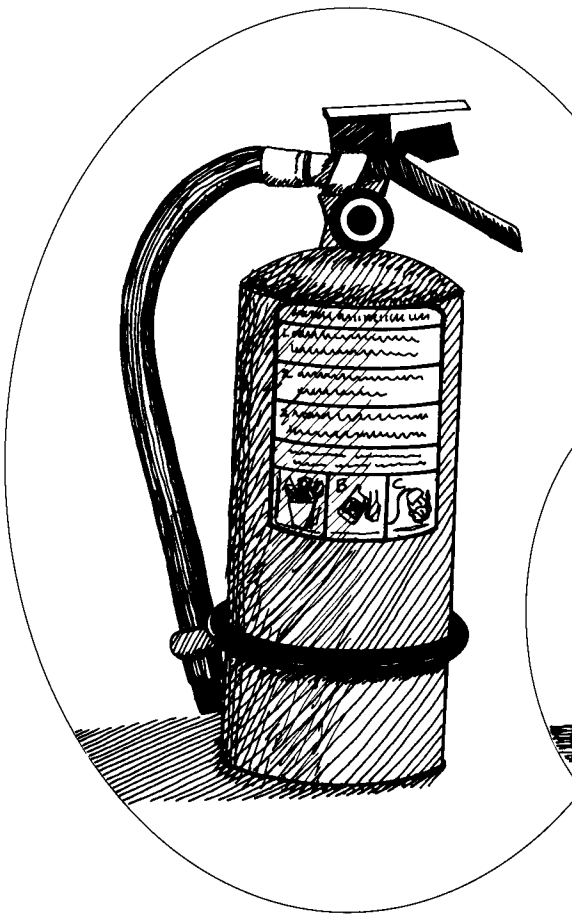
Type A:
Wood, paper, cloth, rubbish



Type B:
Flammable gas/liquids



Type C: Electrical fires



Type D:
Combustible metals such as magnesium; sodium, potassium, and sodium potassium alloys require a special dry-powder, class D extinguisher.

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