



Fire Administration
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Home Fire Safety and Protection Tips

Aurora Fire Rescue provides this information as a public service with the intent of improving safety within the city of Aurora and "ensuring a safe community". This bulletin is intended to provide general information related to fire safety in the home and is not designed nor can be relied upon to completely cover all situations. Your safety can best be assured through continued personal vigilance, education and diligence.

General Fire Safety and Protection Tips

- Make sure all family members know what to do in the event of a fire. Draw a floor plan with at least two methods of fire escape in every room. Make a drawing for each floor. Dimensions do not need to be correct. Make sure the plan shows important details: stairs, hallways and windows that can be used as fire escape routes.
- Test windows and doors- Do they open easy enough? Are they wide enough? Or tall enough?
- Choose a safe meeting place outside the house.
- Practice alerting other members. It is a good idea to keep a bell, whistle, or flashlight in each bedroom.

Conduct a Family Meeting and Discuss the Following Topics

- Always sleep with the bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke out of bedrooms, giving you additional time to escape.
- Find a way for everyone to sound a family alarm. Yelling, pounding on walls, whistles, etc. Practice yelling "FIRE!"
- In a fire, time is critical. Don't waste time getting dressed, don't search for pets or valuables. Just get out!
- Roll out of bed. Stay low. One breath of smoke or gases may be enough to kill.
- Once you exit your home, DO NOT RETURN. Many people lose their lives going back into a burning home.

Be Prepared-Plan Ahead

P.P.F.L.:

Practice evacuating the building blindfolded. In a real fire situation, the amount of smoke generated by a fire most likely will make it difficult to see.

Practice staying low to the ground when escaping.

Feel all doors before opening them. If a door is hot, get out another way.

Learn to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if clothes catch fire.

Install smoke detectors

Check smoke detectors once a month and change the batteries at least once a year. Smoke detectors sense abnormal amounts of smoke or invisible combustion gases in the air. They can detect both smoldering and burning fires. At least one smoke detector should be installed on every level of a structure.

Purchase smoke detectors labeled by the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

Post emergency numbers near telephones

Be aware that if a fire threatens your home, you should not place the call to emergency services from inside the home. It is better to get out and place the call to fire authorities from a safe location outside the home.

After a fire emergency

Give first aid where appropriate. Seriously injured victims should be transported to professional medical help immediately. Stay out of the damaged building. Return only when fire authorities say it is safe.

Make sure you have a safe fire escape method for all situations

You may have installed a very expensive home security system. But if you cannot escape the burning structure you have a false level of confidence. And for the long term, consider getting a residential fire sprinkler. According to statistics, the risk of death by fire is reduced by 82% when smoke detectors are accompanied with residential fire sprinklers.

Additional Tips For Fire Safety

Space Heaters Need Space

Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to sleep. Children and pets should always be kept away from them.

Smokers Need To Be Extra Careful

Never smoke in bed or when you are sleepy. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States.

Be Careful Cooking

Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep the handles of your pots turned inward so they do not over-hang the stove. If grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan and smother the flames, then turn off the burner. Stoves are not made for heating homes.

Matches and Lighters are Dangerous

In the hands of a child, matches and lighters can be deadly! Store them where kids can't reach them, preferably in a locked area. Teach children that matches and lighters are "tools" and should only be used by adults.

Use Electricity Safely

If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords and don't overload extension cords. They should not be run under rugs or through doorways. Never tamper with the fuse box or use the improper size fuse.

Cool a Burn

If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound under cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor immediately!

Be Careful of Halogen Lights

If you have halogen lights, make sure they are away from flammable drapes and low ceiling areas. Never leave them on when you leave your home or office.

Fireplace safety

If you are burning wood in your fireplace, make sure your chimneys are properly maintained. That goes for your furnace, as well.

Candles glow

If candles are necessary, use them in a safe environment in a fireproof container and away from children. Do not leave them unattended.

REMEMBER:

Fire can engulf a house in 60 seconds!
Make sure you have a safe and quick method of escape!

If you have any unanswered questions or concerns, please contact the Aurora Fire Rescue Life Safety Division at 303-326-8999.