



Your **FIREFIGHTERS** and **PARAMEDICS OF BOCA RATON** want to keep you safe!

More than 2,500 Americans die each year in home fires and approximately 12,600 are injured. There are ways to prevent and survive a fire. It's not a question of luck. It's a matter of planning ahead.

Home Fire Safety Tips

SMOKE ALARM

A property installed and maintained smoke alarm will alert you and your family to fire, significantly increasing your chances of survival. Test it monthly, keep it free of dust and replace the battery at least once a year on Daylight Savings Time. Smoke alarms themselves should be replaced after ten years of service, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES

Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas. Immediately shut off and unplug appliances that sputter, spark or emit an unusual smell. Have them professionally repaired or replaced.

USE APPLIANCES WISELY

When using appliances follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Overheating, unusual smells, shorts and sparks are all warning signs that appliances need to be shut off, then replaced or repaired. Unplug appliances when not in use. Use safety caps to cover all unused outlets, especially if there are small children in the home. Never overload electrical outlets.



COOKING SAFELY

Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. Stay in the home when simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food. Keep anything that can catch fire like potholders, towels, plastic and clothing away from the stove.

HEATING SOURCES

Portable heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least three feet away. Keep fire in the fireplace. Use fire screens and have your chimney cleaned annually. The creosote buildup can ignite a chimney fire that could easily spread.

AFFORDABLE HOME FIRE SAFETY SPRINKLERS

When home fire sprinklers are used with working smoke alarms, your chances of surviving a fire are greatly increased. Sprinklers are very affordable - they can increase property value and lower insurance rates.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

Develop an escape plan from every room in the house and practice it at least twice a year. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house. Make sure your plan includes everyone in your household, including your pets. If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the doors closed. Place a wet towel under the door and call 9-1-1. Open a window and wave a brightly colored cloth or flashlight to signal for help.

For more useful information, visit our website at: www.iaff1560.org