



Seasonal CRD Preparedness Tips

November: Home Fire Preparedness

This holiday season is a time for family, friends and feasts. This may mean you will be spending more time than usual in the kitchen. Cooking is the main cause of home fires any time of the year, but it is especially common on Thanksgiving. The average number of home fires in residential buildings on this day is often double the number of home fires throughout the rest of the year.

Home Fires:

Be aware and prepare for home fires in the 4 tips below:

1. **Fire is FAST!:** In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.
2. **Fire is HOT!:** Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.
3. **Fire is DARK!:** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.
4. **Fire is DEADLY:** Smoke and toxic gasses kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gasses that make you disoriented and drowsy.

Fires: Before / During / After

Before: Create and Practice a Fire Escape Plan. Practice your home fire escape plan twice each year.

- Tips: find two ways to get out of each room, make sure windows aren't stuck, and practice getting out of the house with your eyes closed.

During: Drop down to the floor and crawl low, under any smoke, to your exit. First, feel the doorknob and door. Open doors slowly if they aren't hot. Proceed to your 2nd escape plan if hot. Call 9-11 if you can't get to someone. If you can't get out, then cover vents/cracks in/around doors and signal fire fighters with a flashlight.

- If YOU catch on fire, then Stop, Drop, and Roll!

After: Check with the local red-cross if you need temporary housing, food, and/or medication. Check with the fire department if your home is safe to enter. Conduct an inventory and document damaged property and items.



Prevention when cooking:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. Turn off the stove if you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Position barbecue grills and turkey fryers at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railings, and out from under leaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep a fire extinguisher available.
- If there is an oven fire - keep the door closed
- Check smoke alarms

Sources:

- <https://www.ready.gov/home-fires> - <https://www.fema.gov/blog/10-ways-prevent-home-fires-thanksgiving>