

Smoking



Focus on Fire Safety: Smoking



Every year, almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are preventable. You can make a difference!

The Facts

- Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths in the United States. People close to where a smoking material fire starts are harder to save because the fire spreads fast. Most fires caused by smoking material start on beds, furniture, or in the trash.
- In 2006, there were an estimated 142,900 smoking-material fires in the United States. These fires caused 780 civilian fire deaths and 1,600 civilian injuries.
- Smokers aren't the only ones who suffer from smoking home fires:
- **One in four** people killed in home fires is not a smoker whose cigarette caused the fire.
- **Thirty-four percent** are children of the smokers.
- **Twenty-five percent** are neighbors or friends of the smokers.
- Older adults are at the highest risk of death or injury from smoking-material fires even though they are less likely to smoke.

Smoking Hazards

- Average age of **cigarette fire death: 55+**
- **Careless discarding in beds, chairs, trash**
- **Increases with alcohol, prescription drugs**
- **Visitors, caretakers, neighbors also at risk**



- Don't Allow Smoking in Your Home

What Can You Do?

- **If You Smoke, Smoke Outside**
- Most home fires caused by smoking materials start inside the home. It's better to smoke outside. If you smoke outside, put your cigarettes out in a can filled with sand.



Wherever You Smoke, Use Deep, Sturdy Ashtrays

- Use ashtrays with a wide, stable base that are hard to tip over. If it wobbles, it won't work.



Make Sure Cigarettes and Ashes Are Out

- The cigarette really needs to be completely stubbed out in an ashtray. Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.



Check for Butts

- Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. Don't put ashtrays on them. If people have been smoking in the home, check for cigarettes under cushions.



Never Smoke in a Home Where Oxygen Is Used

- Never smoke while using oxygen or are anywhere near an oxygen source, even if it is turned off. Oxygen can be explosive and makes fire burn hotter and faster

Smoking and Oxygen Therapy



- Do not support the smoking habit of those who depend on portable oxygen tanks



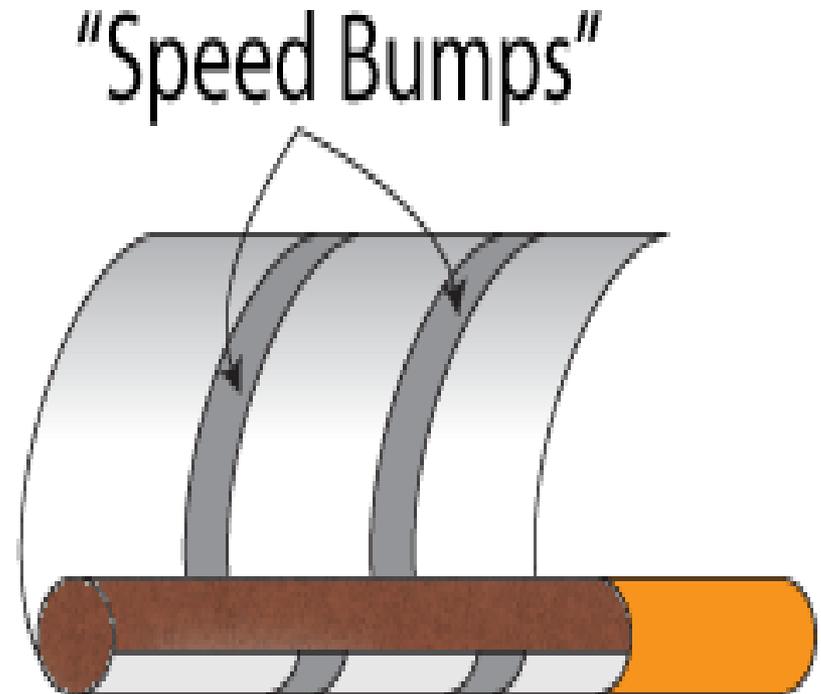
- Smokers who depend on oxygen should leave smoking materials at home when out in public

If You Smoke, Fire-Safe Cigarettes Are Better

- Fire-safe cigarettes are less likely to cause fires. These cigarettes have banded paper that can slow the burn of a cigarette that isn't being used.

Fire-Safe Cigarette

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- If a fire-safe cigarette is left unattended, the burning tobacco will reach one of these banded "speed bumps" and self-extinguish.
- Fire-safe cigarettes are less likely to start a fire if dropped or left unattended.
- Fire-safe cigarettes have thin bands of less-porous paper that act as "speed bumps" to slow down burning.
- If a fire-safe cigarette is left unattended, the burning tobacco will go out by itself when it reaches one of these bands.
- The fire-safe technology cuts off the burning time before most cigarettes can set fire to furniture, carpet, and bedding.



Be Alert

- To prevent a deadly fire, you have to be alert. If you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, put your cigarette out first. Smoking in bed is just plain **wrong**.

Practice Fire Safety

- Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Check smoke alarm batteries at least once every year. You can use a familiar date, such as when you change your clocks or your birthday, as a reminder.
- Create an escape plan. Plan two ways to escape from every room. Practice the escape plan with everyone in the home.
- If at all possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.

Before you light your next cigarette, remember:

- Put your cigarette or cigar out at the first sign of feeling drowsy while watching television or reading.
- Use deep ashtrays and put your cigarette all the way out.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Don't walk away from lit cigarettes and other smoking materials.
- Don't put ashtrays on the arms of sofas or chairs.

**Another fine
mess: keep
cigarettes away
from anything
that can burn.**



Smoking Questions

Answer true or false by circling correct answer.

- **One in four** people killed in home fires is not a smoker whose cigarette caused the fire. **T or F**
- Older adults are at the highest risk of death or injury from smoking-material fires even though they are less likely to smoke. **T or F**
- Average age of cigarette fire death: 50 or less **T or F**
- If you smoke outside, put your cigarettes out in a can filled with sand. **T or F**
- Always toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can. **T or F**
- Don't put ashtrays on chairs and sofas, they catch on fire fast and burn fast. **T or F**
- Do not support the smoking habit of those who depend on portable oxygen tanks. **T or F**
- To prevent a deadly fire, you have to be alert. **T or F**
- Practice the escape plan with everyone in the home. **T or F**