



Anchorage Fire Department • Wildfire Mitigation Office

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www.muni.org/fire



HOME FIRE SAFETY

Learn to Use Your Portable Fire Extinguisher

- Portable fire extinguishers can save lives and property by helping to extinguish small fires until the fire department arrives.
- Extinguishers are identified by the type of fire on which they can be used
- Fire extinguishers need annual maintenance and must be recharged after every use.

Smoke Detectors

- Experts report that the risk of residential fire fatalities can be reduced by 50% simply by having a smoke alarm in their homes.
- Position smoke detectors in every sleeping room and on every floor of your home.
- Check your smoke detectors monthly; replace batteries twice a year.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Approximately 250 people in the United States died last year from the "Silent Killer" - carbon monoxide (CO).
- CO is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely.
- Be aware that CO poisoning may be the cause of flu-like symptoms such as headaches, tightness of chest, dizziness, fatigue, confusion and breathing difficulties. Because CO poisoning often causes a victim's blood pressure to rise, the victim's skin may take on a pink or red cast.
- Install a UL Listed CO detector manufactured since October 1995 outside ALL sleeping areas. This will allow an alarm to sound before dangerous levels of CO accumulate.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before installing a CO detector.

Know how to respond to a CO detector alarm.

- If your alarm sounds, immediately exit the home and remain outside until monitoring is performed by firefighters or a technician and it is determined that it is safe for you to return.
- If anyone is experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning -- headache, dizziness or other flu-like symptoms -- call 911. If no one is experiencing these symptoms, ventilate the home, turn off fuel-burning appliances and call a qualified technician to inspect your heating system and appliances as soon as possible.
- Do not operate any fuel-burning appliances until you have clearly identified the source of the problem. A CO detector alarm indicates elevated levels of CO in the home. **Never ignore the alarm.**

Plan Your Escape!

- Even with an early warning from a smoke detector, escaping a fire can be difficult or impossible.
- Provide your neighbors with your daytime contact information to notify you in the event of any emergency.
- Draw a floor plan of your home and mark all possible escape routes.
- Teach your children how to escape in case of a fire - not to hide under a bed or in a closet.
- Designate a place where your family will meet in the event of a fire.