

Hazard: Fire

Identity of Hazard(s): This includes threats from exposure to uncontrolled fire and associated smoke at a dwelling. The main sources of ignition attributable to the dwelling are cooking appliances, space heaters, and electrical distribution equipment.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Burns¹

Health Alert! Occupier behavior is a major factor in relation to fires starting. Over 80% of accidental fires in dwellings result from occupier carelessness or misuse of equipment or appliances, etc. Fires started by smokers' materials and matches account for about 40% of accidental deaths from dwelling fires, with a death rate of over 30 per 1,000 reported fires, the highest death rate resulting from any cause of fire ignition.¹

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take²

- Never leave food unattended on a stove.
 - Keep cooking areas free of flammable objects (such as, potholders and towels).
 - Avoid wearing clothes with long, loose-fitting sleeves when cooking.
 - Never smoke in bed or leave burning cigarettes unattended.
 - Do not empty smoldering ashes in a trash can, and keep ashtrays away from upholstered furniture and curtains.
 - Never place portable space heaters near flammable materials (such as, drapery).
 - Keep all matches and lighters out of reach of children. Store them up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
 - Install smoke alarms on every floor of the home, including the basement, and particularly near rooms in which people sleep.
 - Use long-life smoke alarms with lithium-powered batteries and hush buttons, which allow persons to stop false alarms quickly. If long-life alarms are not available, use regular alarms, and replace the batteries annually.
 - Test all smoke alarms every month to ensure they work properly.
 - Devise a family fire escape plan and practice it every 6 months. In the plan, describe at least two different ways each family member can escape every room, and designate a safe place in front of the home for family members to meet after escaping a fire.
 - If possible, install or retrofit fire sprinklers into home.
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Local Resources for Detroit Residents:

- Children's Hospital Smoke Alarm Installation Program - Kohl's Injury Prevention Program: (313) 745-0072
- Detroit Fire Department: (313) 596-2900

¹http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=operating_guidance_hhrs_v1.pdf

²<http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Fire-Prevention/fireprevention.htm>