



For life threatening emergencies, call 9-1-1

For information about fire prevention and safety, contact your local fire agency or visit:
www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CommEd_SR_Program.shtml



Oregon State Police
Office of State Fire Marshal
4760 Portland Road NE
Salem, OR 97305-1760
503-934-8266 or 503-934-8366
www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM



Take Steps to Prevent Fires



Fire Prevention & Safety for Older Adults

Safety information from the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and your local fire agency.



Did you know?

- In Oregon, adults age 50 and older are more likely to die in a residential fire than any other age group.
- Smoking while on oxygen can be fatal.
- Most fatal fires occur at home.

You are at increased risk for a house fire if you:

- Have smokers in the household
- Leave cooking unattended
- Use space heaters
- Use a woodstove or fireplace
- Use frayed electrical cords or old extension cords

Fire Prevention Starts With YOU!

What can you do to prevent fires?

1. Smoking safety

- Smoke outside.
- Don't smoke in bed or when feeling drowsy.
- Don't smoke while using oxygen.
- Use large, deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- Wet cigarette butts and ashes before disposing them.

2. Cooking safety

- Don't leave cooking food unattended.
- Set a timer or turn on a light as a reminder you are cooking.
- Don't cook if you are drowsy from medication or alcohol.
- Don't wear loose sleeves over hot stove burners – they can melt, ignite, or catch on handles of pots and pans.
- Keep dishtowels, paper towels, pot

holders, and other combustible items away from stove burners.

- If a pan of food catches fire, carefully slide a lid over it and turn off the burner.

3. Electrical safety

- Maintain electrical cords and appliances.
- Do not place electrical cords under rugs.
- Plug appliances directly into wall outlets.

4. Home heating safety

- Use space heaters carefully.
 - Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from items that can burn.
 - Make sure your space heater has an automatic tip-over switch.
 - Unplug heaters when not in use, before going to bed, and before leaving home.
 - Don't use extension cords with space heaters.
- Maintain woodstoves and fireplaces.
 - Have a professional clean and inspect chimney and woodstove flues yearly.
 - Keep combustibles 3 feet from fire and sources of heat.
 - Always use a fireplace screen.
 - Dispose of ashes in a metal container, outside and away from combustibles.



Do you have the tools for fire safety?

Smoke alarms

- Have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in each bedroom.
- Have someone push the test button, and vacuum smoke alarm vent once a month.
- Make sure everyone in the home can hear the smoke alarms, especially while sleeping.
- Smoke alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing are available.

Home fire escape plan

- Know two ways out of every room and two ways out of your home.
- Make sure windows and doors open easily.
- Plan your escape based on your abilities.
- In a fire, get out and stay out.
- Don't go back in for family, pets, or personal items.
- Once you have escaped, call 9-1-1.

What to do if you catch on fire?

- Stop, drop, and roll — if you are able.
- If you can't stop, drop, and roll, smother flames with towel or blanket.
- Get medical help immediately.

Home Fire Sprinklers

- If possible, choose to live in a home that has fire sprinklers installed.
- If you're building a new home or moving to a new facility, make sure it has a home fire sprinkler system.
- Installing both smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers reduces the risk of death in a home fire.