

10 Tips to Avoid Careless Smoking.

80 percent of all fire deaths occur in the home. Most of these could have been prevented. Careless smoking is one of the leading causes to fires in the home.

Follow these tips to keep your family safe if you have a smoker in your home.

1. The bedroom is for sleeping - NOT smoking. Many people smoke in bed and then fall asleep. This usually results in the bed catching on fire and severe burns or death.

2. Ashtrays belong on sturdy tables or stands. It is very easy to keep an ashtray on the arm of the sofa or chair for convenience. It is also easy to knock these off and cause a fire.

3. Small ashtrays are attractive but not safe. Larger ashtrays have wide lips that hold the cigarettes better. Also deeper bases keep the ashes from blowing away.

4. Don't empty ashtrays into the garbage. Warm ashes can smolder for a very long time and then ignite. Dump ashtrays into the toilet or an airtight container.

5. Put out all cigarettes, pipes, and cigars before walking away. You can always relight them later if you are just leaving for a minute.

6. Close the matchbook before striking the match. An open matchbook can ignite all the matches inside, as well. Lighters should be set on "low" flame to prevent burns.

7. Check on the floor and around chair cushions for ashes that may have been dropped accidentally.

8. If a fire does happen, stay low to the ground and crawl beneath the smoke. Have an escape plan ready and practice it with the entire family often.

9. Install a smoke detector on every floor of the house. Check the batteries often and change them at least once a year.

10. Be aware of what your smoking materials can do. They are not only dangerous to your health by using them but can also cause a lot of damage and harm.

