



Fire in your Home

It doesn't take long for a fire to damage or even destroy your home and its contents. If you understand the nature of fires and take a few simple precautions to prevent them, you can avert disasters and save lives.

Before a fire:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms (ULC and/or CSA approved if hardwired)
- Develop and practice an escape plan
- Post emergency numbers near the telephone. It is important to note that during a fire you **must** go to another location to call 9-1-1
- Install A-B-C type extinguishers in the home for use on very small fires (i.e., stovetop). Read the operating guidelines carefully prior to installation
- Keep stovetop clear of combustibles when cooking
- Extinguish flames of pan fires with the lid, a wet towel or an extinguisher
- Do **not** pour water on grease fires
- Check extension cords and replace if cracked or frayed
- Do not place extension cords under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas
- Never overload your electrical outlets or extension cords. Use a power bar as a multiplier instead of an octopus or other unprotected outlet adapter

During a fire:

- Get out quickly and call 9-1-1 from an alternate location
- Use the stairs to escape (avoid elevators)
- Close doors of each room as you leave to hinder the spread of fire
- If smoke is pouring into a room with a closed door or if the door feels hot, do not open it. Open a window for fresh air and wait for the firefighters
- If there is no smoke seeping into a room and the door does not feel hot, you can attempt to escape by opening the door slowly. If the hallway is smoky, stay inside, close the door and call 9-1-1
- After exiting the building, **never** return indoors to claim personal articles or pets
- Go to your pre-planned meeting spot to ensure all household members are safe and accounted for

After a fire:

- Give first aid where appropriate
- Transport seriously injured victims immediately to the hospital
- Never go back inside a damaged building to assess damage. Wait for firefighters to escort you
- Discard food exposed to heat, smoke and soot
- Contact your insurance agent. Do not remove any contents until your home has been assessed by the agent