The **Houston Fire Department** wants you to practice fire safety and protect your family from fire.

**SMOKE DETECTORS** - All apartments are required by law to provide smoke detectors. Change the battery once a year or when chirping. We suggest you change the battery in the spring or fall, when you change the time on your clock. Test smoke detectors once a month. The National Fire Protection Association recommends that you replace your detector every ten years. According to the National Fire Protection Association over one third of detectors do not work. A dead or missing battery is the primary cause of smoke detector failure.

**COOKING** - Unattended cooking is the primary cause of kitchen fires. If you have a grease fire: Never try to move the pan, don't throw water or flour on the fire. **Call 9-1-1.** Only a very small fire can be extinguished using a class ABC fire extinguisher, baking soda, or a tight fitting lid.

**ELECTRICAL** - If an appliance has any flames, smokes or has an unusual smell, **Call 9-1-1.** Have it repaired or replaced. Have any electrical cord replaced that is cracked or frayed. Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords. Never run electrical cords under rugs or through doorways. A licensed electrician should check any problems.

**ARSON** - Promptly report to security or management any suspicious persons or situations. Every year children start fires that cause deaths and millions of dollars in property damage. Keep matches and lighters locked up and inaccessible to children. If your child expresses an unusual interest in playing with fire call the Houston Fire Department at **713-865-9000.**

**SMOKING** - Many apartment fires are started by careless smoking. Use appropriate size ashtrays to keep the cigarettes from falling on upholstered furniture. Dispose of ashes and butts properly. *Never* smoke in bed. Keep matches and lighters locked up and inaccessible to children.

**CANDLES** - Never leave a lit candle near curtains, paper, or upholstered furniture. Make sure candles are securely placed on a non-combustible surface and in an appropriate holder so as not to tip over or become easily displaced. Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle. Extinguish the candle before leaving.

**FURNITURE** - *Never* attempt to remove any furniture item or mattress that is smoking or on fire. Remove all persons from the apartment and then **Call 9-1-1.**

**BARBECUE PITS** – Charcoal burners and other open flame cooking devices (includes bar-b-que pits, woks, grills, broilers, chimeras, fire rings) shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet of the building, or other combustible materials (includes wooden decks, window openings, door openings, fencing, awnings, patio covers, etc)

**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** - Everyone should have a Fire Extinguisher. It should be kept where it can be reached easily. Only use an extinguisher on a very small fire because fire fighting is dangerous and should be left to the professionals.

**FIREWORKS** – It is against the Law to possess, transport, or discharge fireworks in the city limits of Houston. Report any violations to the Fire Marshal's Office at **713-865-7100** or **713-884-3143.**
CARELESS COOKING
IS THE #1 CAUSE OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES

The Houston Fire Department
Recommends these safety tips

It is always best to prevent a fire than to have to deal with one. Remember to use a moderate cooking temperature, don’t overfill the container, and if you must leave the kitchen, turn the burner off. Unattended cooking is the primary cause of kitchen fires. Over half of these are grease fires. Here are some helpful safety tips:

- Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove. Curious children may reach up and grab the handle, pulling the hot contents down on themselves.
- Don’t position handles over another burner. It may catch on fire or burn someone who touches it.
- Wear short sleeves or tight fitting long sleeves when cooking to reduce doting fire hazards.
- Shield yourself from scalding steam when lifting lids from hot pans.
- Make sure potholders are not too close to the stove. They could catch fire!
- Keep ovens, broilers, stove tops, and exhaust ducts free from grease.
- If there is a fire in the oven - turn off the oven and keep the oven door closed.

Over half the people attempting to extinguish a kitchen fire are injured. Often the best advice is to get everyone out of the house and call the fire department (911) from a neighbor’s house. Never try to move the pan. Don’t throw water or flour on it.

If you attempt to extinguish the fire, it is best to use a class ABC multi-purpose fire extinguisher. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions - stay back 6 to 8 feet and be careful not to spray the grease out of the pan. Baking soda can also smother the fire. If the fire has not burned for more than 15 seconds, it may still be possible to turn the burner off and use a tight fitting lid to smother the fire. Do this only if the fire is still small and has not spread beyond the pan.

Houston Fire Department
Public Education
713-865-4524

For more information, visit our website at:
www.hfd.ci.houston.tx.us
IF YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR DOESN'T WORK PROPERLY, THE SILENCE ... COULD BE DEADLY.

THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT recommends these safety tips for Smoke Detectors...

There are three types of detectors.

1) Ionization works faster in a flaming fire,
2) Photoelectric works faster in a slow smoldering fire,
3) Dual Sensor works as fast in either type of fire.

Location

- Wall mount (place 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling).
- Ceiling mount (place at least 4 inches from any wall).
- High pitch ceilings (place three feet from the highest point).
- Don't install near window, door, air register or ceiling fan.
- Place at least one smoke detector on each level (minimum of one detector outside each sleeping area).

Maintenance

- Change battery once a year or when making a chirping-like sound. We suggest you change the battery in the spring or fall when you change the time on your dock.
- Test smoke detector once a month.
- Vacuum the vents in the detector at least once a year.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s recommendations.
- The National Fire Protection Association recommends that you replace your smoke detector every ten years.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 92 percent of all homes in America have smoke detectors installed. However, over one third of these do not work. A dead or missing battery is the primary cause of smoke detector failure.

Houston Fire Department

Public Education

713-865-4524

CHECK YOUR BATTERY!

For more information, visit our website at: www.hfd.ci.houston.tx.us
SPACE HEATERS CAN KILL

THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT recommends these safety tips for Heating Devices

Properly install and maintain a smoke detector. Never leave children unattended in a room or home with a space heater. Keep all combustible materials and yourself, at least three feet away from the heater. Even a slight brush against a heater could ignite your clothing.

Space Heaters

- Open-faced heaters should have a proper screen and grates in place. Small children may be attracted to the flame!
- Provide adequate ventilation, opening a window slightly (one-inch) to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. NOTE: If your flame is not blue, it is not burning properly. It is producing Carbon Monoxide, which can't be seen, smelled or tasted. TURN IT OFF! There are detectors currently available that constantly monitor the air for carbon monoxide.
- Use flexible metal tubing with threaded ends to connect the heater to the gas valve. There should be a cutoff valve for the heater at the wall. Never use a rubber hose to connect a space heater to the gas valve!
- Use soapy water to check all connections and valves for leaks. NEVER use a match to test for a gas leak!
- Look for the American Gas Association label and follow the manufacturer’s recommendations for proper usage.

Vented Gas / Fired Heating Appliances

(Central heating units, floor furnaces, recessed wall heaters, and vented space heaters.)

- Inspect annually by a qualified service technician. Don’t wait for cold weather!
- Do not use these type units without a proper vent pipe. Vent pipes must exhaust to the outside!
  Electric Heaters
- Never overload outlets or breakers.
- Don’t use extension cords for the heater. If the cord is hot to the touch, turn off the heater and unplug it!
- Electric heaters permanently installed in the wall or ceiling should have lint and dust removed regularly. Lint and dust will burn!

Houston Fire Public Education
Department 713-865-4524

For more information, visit our website at: www.hfd.ci.houston.tx.us
Every year in the City of Houston, children start hundreds of fires, endangering lives and destroying homes. Sixty percent of these children who have set fires are under age 10 and about 81% of them will continue to set fires unless given the proper education.

It doesn't have to be this way.... Prevention is the key

Children naturally have a curiosity about fire since it is part of their world, but fire play is never a safe way for children to learn about fire. Parents can prevent their children from playing with fire by:

- Talking to their children about the dangers of fire, lighters, matches and stoves.
- Teaching your children that fire is a tool for adults. It is not a toy.
- Keeping lighters and matches out of children's reach and sight.
- Teaching your children to tell you immediately about any matches or lighters left out.
- Buy only child-resistant lighters. These are not child safe, but they provide more precautions.
- Install smoke detectors and have your children help you check them on the 1st of each month.
- Have your children help you draw out a fire escape plan and help point out possible fire hazards.

Children with parents who smoke find lighters and matches more readily, so if you smoke:

- Keep only one or two lighters at a time.
- Keep your lighter on your person.

Remember that lighters and matches can be more dangerous than a loaded gun and that every year children cause more injuries and damages with these often easily accessible fire tools. Secure your lighters and matches as if they were a gun.

My Child has already played with fire.... Education & assistance are available.

If your child has played with fire, he/she most likely will do it again and punishments are not likely to stop your child. The Houston Fire Department provides the proper education to children who have played with fire and their parents in a positive, one-to-one program that is of no cost to the family. This is not a phase nor is it a problem that will go away. If your child has played with fires, please call to ask about the program.

Houston Fire Department

Community Relations 713-865-4529

For more information, visit our website at: www.hfd.ci.houston.tx.us
Past and recent tragedies occurred when children and adults were trapped inside their homes, unable to escape a fire because of burglar bars!

The installation and use of burglar bars are regulated by the City of Houston Uniform Building Code. Consult the code!

Bars, grilles or grates may be installed on windows or doors of residences if they meet the following requirements:

Must be able to open the burglar bars from the inside without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort (A child should be able to open the burglar bar easily and get out).

If burglar bars are installed, your home should have smoke detectors installed as follows:

- If the bedrooms are on separate sides of the house or separated in any way, one smoke detector is required to protect each sleeping area or hallway.
- One smoke detector is required for each level of the house if the house is more than one story.
- When bedrooms are upstairs the smoke detector shall be installed on the ceiling near the stairway.
- If bedroom ceilings are more than 24 inches higher than the hallway ceiling, smoke detectors shall be installed in the bedrooms and in the hallway.
- When signaling an alarm the smoke detectors must be heard from every bedroom.

Recommended locations for smoke detectors:

- If installed on wall place (4 to 12 inches from the ceiling) If installed on ceiling place (at least 4 inches from the wall)

The recommended release mechanism for hinged burglar bars would be a single cylinder deadbolt lock with a thumb & forefinger turn lever on the inside cylinder or other quick release devices.

Note: For security purposes the deadbolt on a hinged burglar bar could be protected from outside intrusion by the use of expanded metal or a plate to prevent intruders from reaching the release lever.

Do not install burglar bars, grills, grates or any device on windows or doors used for rescue or escape routes that cannot be easily opened from the inside. In a fire, your life will depend on it!
## Fire Prevention Week

**PREVENT FIRES - PRACTICE FIRE PREVENTION**

**ALL OVER YOUR HOME**

**PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:** Fire can happen to YOU! This year some home in your neighborhood will be involved in a fire. It could be YOURS! Most fires are preventable by making a habit of the simple rules of Fire Safety. Score your knowledge of home Fire Safety on this checklist, and then act to make YOURS a Fire Safe Home. Be sure that the WHOLE FAMILY is in on the planning and the action, for Fire Safety Is a FAMILY AFFAIR!

### MY HOME FIRE INSPECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Do you have smoke detectors in your home? Are they properly located and checked regularly?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Be sure to ask your parents what you should do in case of fire. If your home caught fire when you were asleep, do you know what you would do to save yourself?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Does your family have fire escape drills from bedrooms so you will remember two ways to the outside from your room?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Do you have a meeting place outside?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. In case of fire, do you know how to call the fire department?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Do you have a fire extinguisher to extinguish <strong>very</strong> small fires?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. If your clothes ever catch fire, you must <strong>never</strong> run. Do you know how to smother a clothes fire by stop, drop and rolling on the floor or ground, or covering fire with a coat or blanket?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. When filling your lawnmower with gasoline, do you only fill a cold engine and stay away from open flames?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Have old papers, boxes, clothes, paint cans and other old things been cleaned out of your basement, attic, closets, and garage?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Is rubbish thrown out regularly at your house?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Has everyone been warned <strong>never</strong> to use gasoline or similar flammable liquids for cleaning clothes and other things?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Are oily rags kept in a tightly closed metal can or thrown away safely after use?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Are matches and lighters kept out of reach of small children?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. You know playing with matches is very dangerous. Have you promised your parents <strong>never</strong> to use matches unless they say so?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Are plenty of ashtrays kept where people smoke in your house?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Are electric cords in safe condition?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Have you checked around your house to remove extension cords from under rugs or hanging up on nails?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Ask a parent to go with you to inspect the fuse or breaker box. A 15 ampere fuse or breaker is right for most lighting circuits. Is the right fuse or breaker in every socket?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Do you make sure clothes, curtains or furniture are kept away from stoves or heaters in your house?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. If you have a gas stove or gas heater, and you smell escaping gas, are you ready to call the gas company and the fire department right away from a safe place?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. If you have a fireplace, do you keep a screen in front of the fire?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. If you have a central heating unit or fireplace, do you have it checked by a professional before you use it?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>