

BEDROOM FIRE SAFETY HELPS YOU SLEEP SOUNDLY AT NIGHT

Each year, fire claims the lives of 5,000 Americans and injures even more. Bedrooms are a common area of fire origin. Nearly 1,000 lives are lost to fires that start in bedrooms. Many of these fires are caused by children playing with matches and lighters, careless smoking, misuse or poor maintenance of electrical devices (such as overloading extension cords or using portable space heaters too close to combustibles), and arson.

Kids and Fire: A Bad Match

Children are drawn to fire (lighters, matches, and other ignitable objects), which makes them one of the highest risk groups for death as a result of a residential fire. Bedrooms, closets, or under beds are considered "secret" places where children go to play with fire and these places contain material that can catch fire easily.

- Children of all ages set over 100,000 fires annually. Over 30% of fires that kill children are set by children playing with fire.
- Every year over 800 children nine years old and younger die in house fires.
- Keep matches and lighters locked up and away from children. Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches or evidence that your child may be playing with matches.

Teach your child that fire is a tool not a toy.

Appliances Need Special Attention

The bedroom is where most electrical fires start. Electrical fires are a special concern during winter months, which call for more indoor activities and increases in lighting, heating, and appliance use.

- Do not trap electrical cords against walls where heat can build up.
- Take extra care when using portable heaters. Keep bedding, cloths, curtains, and other combustibles items at least 3 feet away from space heaters.

Tuck yourself in for a Safe Sleep

- Never smoke in bed.
- Have working smoke detectors dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. Place at least one detector on each level of your home and in areas outside of the bedrooms.
- Practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.