

Fire Prevention Week 2025: Stay Prepared, Stay Safe

Every year, Fire Prevention Week serves as an important reminder that fire safety is something that should be practiced year-round. In 2025, the campaign continues to emphasize that **fires can start quickly and spread in seconds**; but preparation, prevention, and knowing what to do can save lives.

Be Prepared Before a Fire

- **Install Smoke Alarms:** Place smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. Test them monthly and replace batteries at least once a year.
- **Create an Escape Plan:** Make a fire escape plan with at least two ways out of each room. Practice it twice a year with everyone in your household.
- **Know Your Address:** Make sure family members (especially children) can recite your home address in case they need to call 911.
- **Keep Essentials Accessible:** Store important documents in a fireproof box and ensure fire extinguishers are easy to access.

Prevent Fires in Your Home

- **Kitchen Safety:** Never leave cooking food unattended. Keep flammable items like towels, paper, or curtains away from the stove.
- **Heating Safety:** Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, and turn them off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- **Electrical Safety:** Avoid overloading outlets or extension cords. Replace damaged cords right away.
- **Candle Safety:** Use flameless candles whenever possible. If using real candles, keep them at least one foot away from anything that can catch fire.
- **Smoking Safety:** If you smoke, do so outside. Never smoke in bed or when drowsy.

What To Do If There Is a Fire

- **Stay Low and Go:** If there's smoke, get low and crawl under it to your exit.
- **Check Doors:** Feel closed doors with the back of your hand. If hot, use another way out.
- **Get Out and Stay Out:** Never go back inside for people, pets, or belongings.

- **Call 911:** Once you're safe outside, call for help and give your address.

Some populations are more vulnerable than others. Fires can be chaotic, confusing and physically block exits. **Ensure the whole family is safe and prepared with the tips below.**

Fire Safety for Children

- Teach children how to recognize the sound of a smoke alarm and what to do when they hear it.
- Show kids how to "Stop, Drop, and Roll" if their clothes catch fire.
- Keep matches and lighters locked away and out of reach.

Fire Safety for Older Adults

- Ensure pathways are clear and well-lit to make escape easier.
- Keep glasses, hearing aids, mobility devices, and phones close by at night.
- Consider installing bed shakers or strobe light smoke alarms for those who are hard of hearing.

Fire Safety for Pets

- Include pets in your family fire drills so they get used to exits.
- Keep leashes, carriers, or crates by the door for quick evacuation.
- Never leave pets alone with lit candles, fireplaces, or space heaters.
- Place a pet alert window cling near entrances to let firefighters know how many animals are inside.

Fire Prevention Week is about more than awareness, it's about **action**. Take time this week to walk through your home, check alarms, review the escape plan, and talk with loved ones. Small steps today can mean lifesaving results tomorrow.