

# Basic Caregiving Guidelines

## Best Practices for: Responding to Emergencies Fire Prevention and Safety



### Responding to Emergencies

Situations may occur that requires everyone to respond appropriately. Examples of emergencies are fire, severe weather, injury, acute illness and others. Guidelines for responding are:

- Posting emergency phone numbers near the phone, including the address of the residence to be relayed to the emergency responder.
- Develop evacuation and shelter in place plans and practice for emergencies such as fire and severe weather drills. Evacuation plans or shelter in place plans should include:
  - Locations of fire extinguishers and exit routes
  - Capabilities of individuals in the event of an evacuation
  - Location of important medications and medical documents to accompany the person
  - An identified evacuation location
- During an actual emergency
  - Remain as calm as possible
  - Assess the situation and respond as able. Such as, in the event of a fire, removing vulnerable people from the area of the fire and extinguishing if fire is small and localized.
  - Assist in the evacuation of vulnerable individuals and leave the immediate area or go to the identified shelter location.
  - Call 911
  - Stay with the vulnerable individuals until help has arrived and their health, safety and welfare can be guaranteed.



#### **4. Fire prevention and safety:**

a. Smoke detectors:

- Check the location of all smoke detectors i.e. kitchen, bedrooms, hallways, etc.
- Check the batteries each week to ensure proper functioning
- Replace batteries once a year

b. Be aware of your exits and pathways

c. Keep oxygen away from fire or electrical sources

d. Do not smoke in rooms that contain oxygen equipment

e. Call your local fire department for assistance or questions

If there is a fire, don't try to fight it. Act fast, since fire can spread in seconds

Vital information to remember:

- Exit the home immediately
- Do not stop for pets or possessions
- Do not go back into a burning building
- Call the fire department after you are outside

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