

In the Bedroom



Smoke alarm with no battery in hall

A working smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire in your home. Test the batteries in your smoke alarms every month and change the batteries twice a year when you change your clocks.

Burned down candle on table

The number of residential fires caused by candles has increased significantly. Burn candles in holders that will catch any wax and never leave a candle burning unattended.

Clutter

Clutter, such as piles of clothes or paper, can feed fires as well as hinder your escape if there is a fire. Keep escape routes clear and clutter to a minimum.

Blocked window

In case of fire, your window may be your only means of escape. Move furniture and other obstructions from in front of windows and make sure you can open them easily.

Clothes iron plugged in, on floor and too close to bed

Clothes irons can cause serious burns and are also hot enough to ignite combustibles. Unplug them when not in use and allow them to cool in an uncluttered area.

Lamp with shirt thrown over

Light bulbs become very hot and can scorch or ignite combustibles. Maintain a safe distance from anything that can burn such as furniture, curtains or clothes.

Do you know the Hidden Hazards in your home?

An exercise in safety by the Division of State Fire Marshal

If someone asked you to think of a place where you feel safe, chances are your home would be near the top of the list. But, your home can be full of potentially dangerous situations. Look inside to see if you recognize the warning signs and find out how you can help protect your family.



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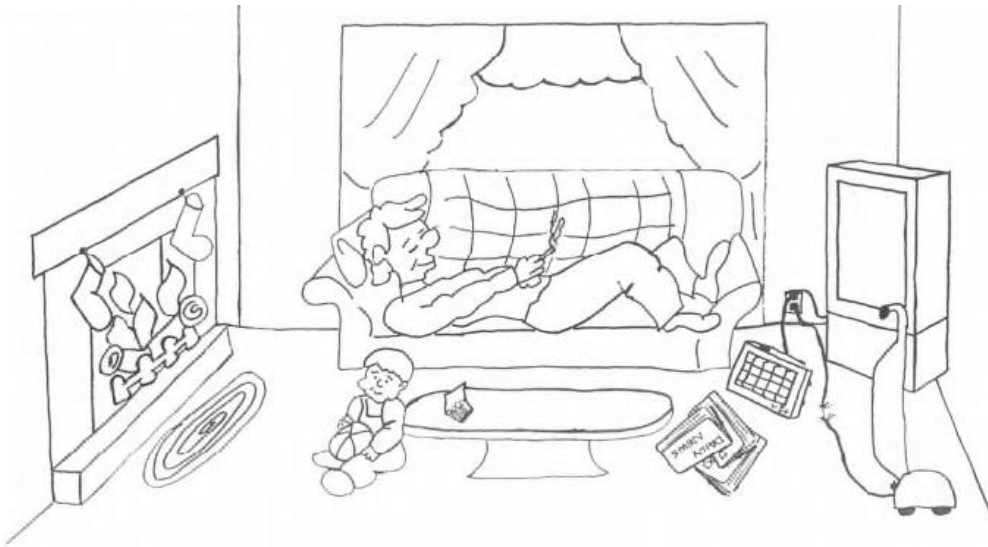
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Division of State Fire Marshal

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Sherry Maxfield, Director

8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
800-750-0750 • com.ohio.gov/fire

In the Living Room



Man lying on couch with cigarette in hand

Careless smoking is the number one cause of fatal fires. Stay alert while smoking - don't lie down or recline, and don't smoke if you have had alcohol or medications that might make you drowsy.

Child sitting on floor, matches on table

Children as young as two years old can light matches. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.

Fireplace with no screen

Sparks and embers can easily ignite rugs, papers and other combustibles. Keep the screen or glass doors closed when your fireplace is in use.

Frayed cord on sweeper

Worn or frayed electric cords are a major cause of residential fires. Check your cords regularly for cracks, worn spots and loose plugs.

Overloaded outlet television, heater and lamps

Plugging multiple cords into an outlet can cause an electrical fire. Outlets are designed to provide electricity to only two appliances at a time. Replace damaged cords.

Electric space heater

Electric heaters can cause furniture, clothing and bedding to burn. If you use an electric or kerosene heater, remember: Space heaters need space.

In the Kitchen



Pot handle sticking out from stove

Pot handles can easily be bumped while cooking or pulled over by a small child. Always turn handles to the back or side of the stove to avoid serious scald burns.

Person reaching over stove

Reaching over the stove can cause a clothing fire. Only wear close fitting clothes with short or rolled up sleeves when cooking. If your clothes catch fire, immediately drop to the floor and roll to smother the fire.

Chemicals under sink

Cleaning supplies are a serious poison hazard for young children. Keep supplies on high shelves outside the kitchen or in locked cabinets.

Extinguisher not accessible

If you have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen, place it near the doorway where it will be accessible in an emergency. This eliminates the possibility of the fire being between you and your extinguisher.

Food or items stored in oven (visible through window in oven)

Food, skillets and dishes stored in ovens can spell disaster. Make it a habit to check the oven before turning it on.

Toaster under a cabinet or paper towel holder

Toasters produce a great deal of heat. Always move them forward on the counter to avoid combustibles such as cabinets or paper towels. Always unplug your toaster when not in use.