

# PREVENTION WEDNESDAY

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City of Baltimore

Health Department

## Stay Warm, Stay Safe: How to Prevent House Fires

### Did You Know?

- Over 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. In Baltimore, there were 1,539 residential fires in 2008.
- Cooking equipment is the #1 cause of home fires, followed by heating equipment. Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths.
- More than half of fire deaths are due to smoke inhalation rather than burns.

### Need a Smoke Alarm?



The Baltimore City Fire Department has a free smoke alarm hotline: **(410) 396-SAVE**  
Call now to get up to 3 free smoke alarms installed in your home by a firefighter.

### Tips to Keep Your Family Safe

**Tip 1** Do not smoke in your home. Unattended cigarettes and ashes can cause fires. For help with quitting smoking, call 1-800 QUITNOW.

**Tip 2** Know how to properly use heating units.

Have heaters checked regularly for bad wiring. Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from things. Always turn heaters off before leaving the room or going to bed.

**Tip 3** Get smoke alarms – and make sure they work!

Put smoke alarms near every place where people sleep, and also in hallways and living areas. Change the battery after 6 months.

**Tip 4** Talk with children about how to escape a fire.

Have a fire escape plan and practice it! Talk with your kids about what to do in case of a fire, how to escape from the home, and where to go once outside.

## Resources

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### **American Red Cross of Central Maryland**

Information for parents about teaching fire safety to children.

<http://www.redcross-cmd.org/Chapter/fireFactsMD.html>

### **Home Safety Council**

An overview of what causes house fires and how to prevent them.

[http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety\\_guide/sg\\_fire\\_w001.aspx](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/safety_guide/sg_fire_w001.aspx)

### **U.S. Fire Administration**

Provides specific information about different types of fires.

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/seasonal/index.shtm>

### **The Baltimore City Fire Department**

Details more safety tips for Baltimore residents.

<http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/fire/>