



Prevent Arson in Your Community



Arson is now the second leading cause of residential fire deaths in the country. Every year residential arson kills more than 700 people and causes an estimated one billion dollars in property damage. Most of these fires could have been prevented. Deaths due to arson are particularly avoidable. Following these simple tips can boost survival rates dramatically. For example, having a working smoke detector more than doubles your chances of surviving a fire. Please share the following fire tips with your audience, because knowledge is the best fire protection.

- Be aware that arson is murder by fire. It injures people, destroys homes and destabilizes neighborhoods.
- Ask law enforcement and fire authorities to identify buildings at risk for arson.
- Monitor run-down and vacant buildings.
- Report suspicious activity.
- Keep boxes, trash, wood and other combustibles away from buildings.
- In the case of arson, seconds count. Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from their home.
- Buy a collapsible ladder for escape from upper-story windows.
- Have a flashlight by your bed to help you see and a whistle to alert your family.
- Remember to escape first, then notify the fire department.
- Install a smoke detector on every level of your home and check the batteries every month.
- Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- Practice feeling your way out of your home with your eyes closed.
- Teach your family to stop, drop to the ground and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- Designate a meeting place outside and take attendance.

This document is IFAS
publication DH 1308.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
U.S. Fire Administration
(USFA)