



Careless Smoking



Did you know that 80% of all fire deaths occur in the home? Most of these fires could easily have been prevented. Deaths due to fires caused by careless smoking are particularly avoidable. Following the simple tips below 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, because knowledge is the best fire protection.

- Never smoke in bed.
- Don't put ashtrays on the arms of sofas and chairs.
- Use large ashtrays with wide lips. While smaller ashtrays may be more attractive, they are not safe. Cigarettes can roll off the edge, and ashes can easily be blown away.
- Empty ashtrays into the toilet or an airtight metal container. Warm ashes in waste cans can smolder for hours, then ignite.
- Don't leave cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended. Put out all smoking materials before you walk away.
- If you begin to feel drowsy while watching television or reading, extinguish your cigarette or cigar.
- Close a matchbook before striking and hold it away from your body. Set your lighter on "low" flame to prevent burns.
- If friends who smoke have visited, check the floor and around chair cushions for ashes that may have dropped accidentally.
- In case of a fire stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out.
- Install a smoke detector on every level of your home. Check the batteries every month and change them at least yearly.

This document is IFAS
publication DH 1310.

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