

Fire Safety Tips from the Murray County Fire Department

Murray County, GA

Cook Carefully

Never leave cooking unattended. Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear clothes with tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Turn pot handles inward on the stove where you cannot bump them and children cannot grab them. If grease catches fire in a pan, slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the heat source. Keep lid on until pan is completely cooled.

Cool a Burn

Run cool water over a burn for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burning skin blisters or is charred, see a doctor immediately.

Crawl Low Under Smoke

During a fire, smoke and poisonous gases rise with the heat. The air is cleaner near the floor. If you must escape through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest exit, keeping your head 12 to 24 inches above the floor.

Give Space Heaters Space

Keep portable and space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Keep children and pets away from heaters and never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed.

Install Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors save lives. Is your smoke detector working? Smoke detectors can alert you to a fire in your home in time for you to escape, even if you are sleeping. Install detectors on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. (If you sleep with the door closed, install one inside your sleeping area as well.)

Test detectors every month, following the manufacturer's directions, and replace batteries once a year, or whenever a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Replace detectors that are more than 10 years old.

Keep an Eye on Smokers

Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in North America. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy. Provide smokers with a large, deep, non-tip ashtray and soak butts with water before discarding them. Before going to bed or leaving home after someone has been smoking, check under and around cushions and upholstered furniture for smoldering cigarettes.

Matches & Lighters are Tools - Not Toys

In a child's hand, matches and lighters can be deadly. Buy child – resistant lighters and store all matches and lighters up high, where kids cannot see or reach them, preferably in a locked cabinet. Teach your children that matches and lighters are tools, not toys, and should be used only by adults or with adult supervision. Teach small children to tell a grownup if they find matches or lighters; older children should bring matches and lighters to an adult immediately.

Plan Your Escape from Fire

If a fire breaks out in your home, you have to get out fast. To prepare, sit down with your family and agree on an escape plan. Be sure that everyone knows at least two unobstructed exits – doors and windows – from every room. Decide on a meeting place outside where everyone will meet after they escape. Have your entire household practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

Stop, Drop, & Roll

If your clothes catch fire, do not run. Stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll over and over to smother the flames.