

# Fire Safety



- Make sure that you have enough fire extinguishers placed where you might need them. Have one in the garage, basement, kitchen, living room and upstairs in the hallway between the bedrooms. Know how to use them. Remember PASS – Pull the pin, Aim low at the base of the fire, Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly, and Sweep the nozzle from side to side.
- Don't leave flames/stoves burning unattended. Candles have been known to melt through plastic shelving units and ignite them. Cooking is by far the most common source of house fires. Never leave cooking unattended and be especially careful about the open flames on gas stoves.
- Make sure you have an escape plan and practice it with your family. This should be done at least twice a year, at night, and during the day. Make sure that it works for all members of your family, including those with sensory or physical disabilities. Ensure that everyone knows at least two ways out of every room and make sure that all doors and windows open easily. Have a meeting point at a safe distance from the home for all family members to gather.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area. Ideally, they should be interconnected so that if one goes off, they all go off. Test them regularly and replace the batteries at least once a year.

In the event of fire:

- Feel doors with the back of your hand. If warm do not open, fire is on the other side.
- Move to exit routes. Shut all doors behind you as you exit to confine fire and smoke.
- Use stairs, not the elevator. Allow others to enter stairwell.
- Upon exiting buildings, do not re-enter until you receive the all clear.

Remember –

- **Fire is FAST!** It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill your home.
- **Fire is HOT!** Room temperature can rise to over 1,000 F at eye level.
- **Fire is DARK!** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.
- **Fire is DEADLY!** Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do.

**P**



**Pull** the pin. Hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.

**A**



**Aim** low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

**S**



**Squeeze** the lever slowly and evenly.

**S**



**Sweep** the nozzle from side to side.