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Safety and fire prevention - Hot fire safety tips

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To reduce fire danger in your home

- **Install and maintain smoke alarms**
 - Smoke alarms warn you of a fire in time to let you escape.
 - Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, especially near each sleeping area.
 - Test smoke alarms regularly and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
 - Replace weak or dead batteries immediately with new ones.
 - Remember, if your smoke alarms are hardwired they will not function during a power failure - consider installing a backup battery powered smoke alarm as an additional asset to your home.
- **Plan and practice your escape**
 - Prepare and practice a fire escape plan with every member of your household.
 - Look for two ways out of each room.
 - Arrange an outside meeting place and a safe location to call 9-1-1.
 - If you live in a multi-storey building, in the event of fire, don't use elevators.
- **Space heaters need space**
 - Keep portable and space heaters at least 1 metre (3 feet) from anything that can burn.
 - Never leave heaters on when you leave the house or go to bed.
 - Keep children well away from heaters.
- **Smoking is hazardous**
 - Set up a designated smoking area outside with large, deep ashtrays, and soak the butts with water before dumping them in the trash.
 - Ask smokers to take it outside to reduce the risk of indoor fires and protect people from being exposed to harmful second-hand smoke.
 - Smokers need watchers. Before going to sleep, check under and around sofa cushions and upholstered furniture for smouldering cigarettes.
- **Be careful when cooking**
 - Be alert when you cook, and keep children out of the way.
 - Don't wear loose fitting clothing and be careful not to reach over hot burners.

- Never leave cooking unattended.
 - If a pot catches fire, cover it with a lid to smother the flames and turn off the burner.
 - Keep pot handles turned inward.

 - **Matches and lighters are for adults**
 - Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
 - Teach children that matches and lighters are only for adults.

 - **Use electricity safely**
 - If an appliance smokes or smells like it is burning, unplug it immediately and have it repaired.
 - Check all of your electrical cords and replace any that are cracked or frayed.
 - Don't overload electrical outlets or run extension cords under rugs or carpets.
 - Don't tamper with the fuse boxes or use fuses of improper size.

 - **Cool a burn**
 - If someone gets burned, immediately run cool water over the wound for 5 to 10 minutes to ease the pain.
 - If the burn is blistered or charred, see a doctor immediately.

 - **Stop, drop and roll**
 - If your clothes catch fire, don't run.
 - Stop where you are,
 - Drop gently to the ground,
 - Cover your face with your hands to protect your face and lungs,
 - Roll over and over until to the flames are smothered.

 - **Crawl low under smoke**
 - If you get caught in smoke, the cleanest air will be near the floor.
 - Get down on your hands and knees and crawl to the nearest safe exit.

 - **Power failures**
 - When power fails don't use open flames or a charcoal grill indoors.
 - Don't use gas-fuelled appliances as alternative heating sources indoors.
 - If you plan to use a portable generator, don't connect household items to the generator unless you have it wired professionally - don't hook the generator up to your home's electrical system.
 - Be sure the generator is kept outside where exhaust doesn't enter buildings.
 - Test your smoke alarms now - remember, if they're hardwired they won't function during a power failure - install backup battery-powered smoke alarms for additional protection.
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In case of fire or an emergency, call 9-1-1.

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