



FIRE MARSHAL BULLETIN

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Mobile Home fire Safety

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We all face the power of fire, daily, during our lifetime. Most fire deaths in this nation occur in the home. Here are some recommendations that will help in reducing the possibility of an accidental fire in mobile homes and minimize the danger should a fire occur.

1. Have a plan for escape. Practice the plan at least twice a year with all members of the household.
2. Make sure that all doors open quickly and freely with a minimum of effort.
3. Can you escape through your windows? Make sure that you can. If not, have "pop-out" windows installed. Always have available a second means of escape.
4. Keep hallways and exit paths clear and unobstructed. Never place furniture, appliances or any other articles in them.
5. Make sure that your mobile home is equipped with smoke detectors that are listed and labeled by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Factory Mutual or Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. The detectors should be located in sleeping areas and areas of high hazard. Test detectors at least once a month. If battery operated, replace the batteries at least once a year. If a detector is more than 10 years old, it should be replaced with a new unit.
6. Have a fully charged fire extinguisher and locate it near an outside door. A 2A-10BC type is ideal for the home and it should be checked regularly to make sure it is operational.
7. Keep heating appliances and furnaces in top working order. Never bypass their automatic controls.
8. Replace furnace filters at least once a month during the heating season. Do not let dust accumulate in or around a furnace or in the ducts.
9. Your furnace or heater must have ample combustion air that comes direct from out-of-doors. The air opening must always be free of obstructions.

Caution: Never handle flammable liquids or gases near an outside combustion air opening. The vapors could be drawn into the furnace and most likely would ignite with explosive force.

10. Wood burning appliances should be installed in compliance with the manufacturers' recommendations and properly maintained and cleaned.
11. If the mobile home has bottle gas cooking ranges, make sure that the burners are turned off before switching from an empty tank to a full one.
12. Electrical wiring must never be overloaded. Make sure that appliance and lamp cords are in a safe condition. It has been shown that misuse of extension cords has resulted in many residential fires. They should be used sparingly and infrequently.

Caution: Recurring blown fuses and tripped circuit breakers means trouble. Have a licensed electrician inspect the electrical system; do not put off needed repairs.

13. Only use electrical heat tapes or pipe heating cables that bear the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. label. Carefully follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. Prior to the heating season, inspect heat tapes and pipe heating cables for any defects.
14. Do not attempt to thaw frozen water pipes with torches or burning newspaper or other combustible material.
15. Keep draperies and curtains away from cooking and heating appliances, and especially, open flame.
16. Never store flammable liquids inside or under a mobile home. Keep them as far away from the building as possible.
17. Do not allow quantities of trash to accumulate in your home or against the walls outside. Get rid of useless combustible storage. It may be a sacrifice, but it is a proven method of eliminating potential fire hazards.

Be fire conscious. Don't let fire destroy your home and possessions. Don't let it destroy you or your loved ones.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the Fire Marshal Division at (517) 322-1924.

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