

Accidents Happen

Most cigarette fires are from dropping hot cigarettes on beds, upholstered furniture, the trash, or clothing. Cigarettes can smolder for hours in seat cushions or on the floor before breaking out in fire. Know the possible dangers.

- A smoker may fall asleep with a cigarette in his hand. The cigarette can cause burns or a fire when it falls out of a sleeping person's hand.
- Tobacco smoke can stain ceilings, curtains, and furniture making them look dirty.
- Children or pets can be burned by falling ashes or lighted cigarettes.
- It is dangerous to smoke in bed. Smokers may fall asleep and forget to put out their cigarettes.
- Nearly 1/2 of the victims of careless smoking fires were children and senior adults.
- Smoking is the 3rd leading cause of fires in campus dormitories.



In 1999, 1 out of every 4 fire deaths was due to smoking materials.

Forest Fires & Wildfires

Smoking can cause forest fires. By dropping a single cigarette or match, a smoker can start a fire in dry grass, brush, or trash. This can lead to a dangerous forest fire that burns away grass, trees, and the homes of people and animals.

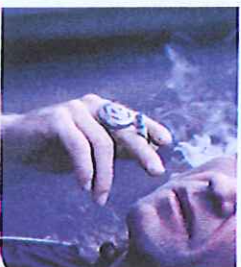


1 out of 10 wildland fires is caused by a careless smoker.

ETS

The smoke from a cigarette that goes into the air is called **secondhand smoke**, **passive smoke**, **involuntary smoke**, or **Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)**. Secondhand smoke is a toxic health hazard that kills about 53,000 people every year. Smokers not only hurt themselves; they hurt the people around them.

The EPA (Environment Protection Agency) classified secondhand smoke as a "Group A Carcinogen," meaning it causes cancer in humans and ranks it among health hazards such as radon and asbestos.



284-360 children die annually from either lung disease caused by secondhand smoke or fires caused by smoking materials.

- When a cigarette is smoked, it produces over 4,000 chemicals including:
- ammonia (*found in toilet bowl cleaner*)
 - polonium 210 (*nuclear waste*)
 - carbon monoxide (*car exhaust*)
 - acetone (*found in paint thinner*)

Children are especially affected by ETS. There may be up to 12 million American children under 5 who are smokers but have never picked up a cigarette. ETS can be from home, day care, or a relative's house. **Researchers suggest that parents refrain from smoking around children. No amount of ETS is safe.** Children exposed to smoke cough and wheeze more and have greater difficulty recovering from colds. Secondhand smoke can cause a variety of problems such as:

- Asthma, Allergies, and other Upper Respiratory or Viral Infections
- Tonsillitis
- Damaged Teeth
- Middle Ear & Sinus Infections
- Hearing Problems
- Stunted Growth
- Birth Defects
- SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)



Careless Smoking

Forest Fires • Wildfires • ETS



A Known Danger

Smoking is dangerous, any way you look at it. It has been proven that smoking damages the body of the smoker as well as anyone nearby. Smoking is the #1 preventable cause of death in the U.S. More people die from tobacco than from car accidents, alcohol, AIDS, murders, and fire combined. Smoking also carries with it the danger of fire.

Smoking causes approximately 30% of fire deaths in the U.S. and 10% of fire deaths worldwide.

Careless smoking or the misplacement of matches and lighters (*found and used by children*) caused 1 million fires worldwide.

40% of cigarette fire victims are 65 or older.

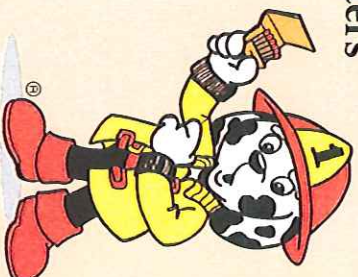
Smoking is the #1 cause of residential fire deaths.

Most of these fires are due to careless or improper disposal of cigarettes, cigars, and pipes.

In 2000, 7.5 million acres burned in the U.S., an area about the size of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Delaware combined.

Matches and Lighters

- Store smoking products away from anything that can burn.
- Keep matches, lighters, and smoking materials out of sight and out of the reach of children.
- Teach children that these materials are tools only for adults to use.
- Encourage children to report to an adult any matches or lighters that they find.
- Only use lighters that have the child safety feature on them.
- When lighting a match, close the cover and hold it away from your body before striking.
- Set lighters on "low" flame.



48% of children state that they could get matches without asking.

Ashtrays

- Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays with wide lips.
- Never place ashtrays on the arms of furniture.
- Dip the butts in water to make sure they are out before disposing or fill the ashtray with water before emptying.
- Empty ashtrays into the toilet or airtight metal container.
- Empty ashtrays often.



Cigarette butts are the #1 source of pollution on beaches.

Furniture

- Never smoke in bed or while reclining in upholstered furniture.
- Check beds, chairs, or couches for smoldering butts or ashes after someone has been smoking.
- Buy smolder-resistant bedding and upholstered furniture.
- Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.

Practice Fire Safety

Safe Habits

- Establish a "No Smoking" policy in your home if possible.
- Do not leave a burning cigarette unattended.
- If you begin to feel drowsy while smoking, put out your cigarette, cigar, or pipe.
- Keep an eye on smokers who are drinking or taking medication. It can be a lethal combination.
- Never leave children alone near an open flame.
- Set a good example: children may imitate adults who light smoking materials.



Smoking is the 3rd leading cause of fire injuries in the U.S.

Smoke Alarms

- Have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home, and near sleeping areas.
- Install extra smoke alarms in areas smokers frequent.
- Test all alarms once a month and replace the batteries twice a year. A working smoke alarm can save lives.
- Practice your home fire escape plan during the day and at night.
- Choose a safe meeting place outside.
- Know 2 ways out of every room in your home in case of fire. Windows or doors can be exits.



A working smoke alarm more than doubles your chances of surviving a fire.