



State Fire Marshal

Department of Commerce

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Fire Safety Tips for Older Ohioans

- Install a smoke alarm on each level of the home and inside each bedroom.
- Check the smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries at least twice a year. Caregivers are encouraged to check alarms for those who are unable to do it by themselves.
- Make a fire escape plan for the home and know two ways out of the home.
- Make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps and widening doorways to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Speak to family members, the building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Ask emergency providers to keep senior citizens' special needs information on file.
- In multi-story homes, make arrangements to sleep on the ground floor, if possible, or near an exit.
- Never smoke in bed or near an open oxygen source, gas stove or other flammable object.
- Keep items such as glasses, hearing aids, canes or wheelchairs close to your bed at night so they are accessible quickly in case of an emergency.
- When cooking, don't leave pots and pans unattended. Use a timer to remind you of food on the stove or in the oven. Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



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- Never leave a car or mower running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never operate unvented fuel-burning appliances inside your home or where people are sleeping. Only use appliances made to use indoors.
- Never use the kitchen stove or oven for heating the house.
- Never use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside the home or garage. When placed outside, make certain it is not close to a window or door.

The Detector Team: YOU MUST HAVE BOTH

A CO detector does not replace a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms sound before a CO detector can react, allowing for more time to escape.

Working smoke alarms save lives. Install smoke alarms on each level of your home and inside of all sleeping areas. Test your alarms monthly and change the batteries in them twice a year. **Change Your Clock - Change Your Batteries.**

Have a plan for escaping a fire and practice it by conducting fire drills at least twice a year. Make sure there are two clear ways out of each room. Have everyone meet at a location outside of the home. Never go back into a burning house. ***Get Out and Stay Out!***



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