



United States Fire Administration

FIIGHT FIRE

For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths please contact your local fire department on a nonemergency number or the United States Fire Administration at (800) 238-3358 or www.usfa.fema.gov

WITH FACTS

Recently your community was struck by fire. Someone died. As you continue to report about the devastating effects of this fire, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the Sleep Products Safety Council (SPSC) encourage you to remind your audience that many fire deaths and injuries are preventable.

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 25,000 are injured. Nearly 1,000 lives are lost to fires that start in the bedroom. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster.

The following life-saving tips could make a big difference to your audience. By incorporating them in your story now, while the moment is still fresh, you could help save a life.

Did you know?

- *Eighty percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.*
- *The bedroom is the most common room in the home where electrical fires start.*
- *Deaths due to bedroom fires are particularly avoidable.*
- *Having a working smoke alarm more than doubles one's chances of surviving a fire.*

Following these simple fire safety tips can boost survival rates dramatically. Please share them with your readers because knowledge is the best fire protection.

PREVENT BEDROOM FIRES

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- 1 Never smoke in bed.
- 2 Replace all mattresses made before the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard. Mattresses made since then are required by law to be safer.
- 3 Keep lighters, matches and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of reach of children. Children are one of the highest risk groups for death in residential fires.
- 4 Keep lit candles away from bedding, curtains, papers and anything else that can ignite easily.
- 5 Do not run electrical cords under your bed or trap them against a wall where heat can build up. And avoid overloading extension cords.
- 6 Take extra care when using portable heaters. Keep bedding, clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least three feet away from space heaters.
- 7 Only use lab-approved electric blankets and warmers. Check to make sure the cords are not frayed.
- 8 Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two escape routes from their bedrooms, and practice these often.
- 9 In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and use the escape plan you have worked out. Get out and stay out.
- 10 Install at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home and in halls outside bedrooms. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year.