



United States Fire Administration

# FIIGHT FIRE

# 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) encourages 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. 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?

- *Smoke alarms are less likely to be present or operating in manufactured homes.*
- *Young children account for more than one-fifth of all fire deaths in manufactured homes.*
- *Electrical system malfunctions are the leading cause of fires in manufactured homes, nearly twice the incidence in one and two family dwellings.*
- *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.

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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

## MANUFACTURED HOME SAFETY

### LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- 1 Have a minimum of two smoke alarms installed in your home regardless of sleeping space arrangements.
- 2 Install smoke alarms in accordance with smoke alarm manufacturer guidelines. Test your smoke alarms once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- 3 Maintain your home heating system by having it serviced at least once a year by a professional.
- 4 Do not store combustibles or flammables near heat sources.
- 5 Never overload outlets, extension cords or electrical circuits. If the circuit breaker trips or fuses blow, immediately call a licensed electrician to check your system.
- 6 Have an escape plan and practice it with your family.
- 7 Space heaters need their space. Do not place portable space heaters close to drapes, clothing or other combustible materials.
- 8 Install skirting material to keep leaves and other debris and combustible items from blowing under your manufactured home.
- 9 When considering a new home, ask if residential sprinklers are available as an option.
- 10 Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with your family.
- 11 If there is a fire - get out immediately, go to a neighbor's and call the emergency phone number in your area.