



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) 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?

- *Eighty percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.*
- *Heating is the second leading cause of residential fires and ties with arson as the second leading cause of fire deaths.*
- *Deaths due to heating a home improperly 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.

ALTERNATIVE HEATER SAFETY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- 1 Allow your heater to cool before refueling and only refuel outdoors.
- 2 Fill your heater with only crystal clear, K-1 kerosene, not gasoline or camp stove fuel — both explode easily.
- 3 Keep the fire in the fireplace by making sure you have a screen large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs.
- 4 Clean your chimney regularly — chimney tar build-up can ignite your chimney, roof and the whole house.
- 5 Space heaters need space. Keep combustibles at least three feet away from each heater.
- 6 When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- 7 Carefully follow manufacturers' installation and maintenance instructions.
- 8 For wood stove fuel use only seasoned wood, not green wood, artificial logs or trash.
- 9 In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out.
- 10 Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year.