



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?

- *Arson is the second leading cause of residential fire deaths in the country.*
- *Two million fires are reported each year, including as many as 573,000 arson fires!*
- *Every year residential arson kills more than 500 people and causes an estimated \$900 million in property damage.*
- *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

PREVENT ARSON IN YOUR COMMUNITY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- 1 Arson is a serious crime. It injures and kills people, destroys property and destabilizes neighborhoods.
- 2 Ask law enforcement and fire authorities to identify buildings at risk for arson.
- 3 Monitor run-down and vacant buildings.
- 4 Report suspicious activity.
- 5 Keep boxes, trash, wood and other combustibles away from buildings.
- 6 In the case of arson, every second counts. Make sure everyone in your family knows two ways to escape from the home.
- 7 Escape first, then notify the fire department using the 911 system or the local emergency number in your area.
- 8 Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test the batteries every month.
- 9 Never open doors that are hot to the touch.
- 10 Practice feeling your way out of your home with your eyes closed.