



Fire Safe Seniors

EDUCATION TOOL

DATE: ____ / ____ / ____ DATE OF BIRTH: ____ / ____ / ____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ EDUCATOR: _____

DISCUSSION OPENER: “I would like to talk to you today about keeping safe from fires in your home. Many older adults are injured or die each year because of home fires. This may be because they have a harder time moving quickly or their hearing and eyesight may not be as sharp as they used to be. If it’s okay with you, I’d like to spend a few minutes discussing how you can prevent fires and what you can do in case of a fire. How does that sound?”

If resident agrees, continue with questions.

If resident is not able or willing to have the discussion, check here: and provide reason below:

Reason: _____

Discussion Questions and Messages

If resident has limited attention span, discuss only main messages. Check understanding after each topic by saying “Before we move on to the next topic, can you tell me in your own words what we just discussed?”

Topic Covered (✓)

1. FOR RESIDENTS WHO ALREADY HAVE ALARMS OR WILL GET THEM SOON:

- **Main message:** Test smoke alarms every month; you can ask someone to test them for you.
- **Message #2:** Never disable your smoke alarm.

FOR RESIDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE ALARMS (AND ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THEM):

- **Main message:** A smoke alarm warns you when it senses smoke in your home. Put smoke alarms in your home and test them each month.

2. Have you thought about how you might escape in case of fire?

- **Main message:** Know two ways out of every room.
- **Message #2:** Plan your escape around your abilities.
- **Message #3:** Keep a phone and emergency numbers to call for help near your bed or sleeping area.
- **Message #4:** If a fire starts, get out and stay out.
- **Message #5:** If you cannot get out, get as low to the ground as you can.



FEMA

U.S. Fire Administration



Discussion Questions and Messages

If resident has limited attention span, discuss only main messages. Check understanding after each topic by saying "Before we move on to the next topic, can you tell me in your own words what we just discussed?"

Topic Covered (✓)

3. Do you or anyone else who lives here smoke?

- **Main message:** Never smoke when you are lying down, drowsy, or in bed.
- **Message #2:** Use large, deep, tip-resistant ashtrays, and place them on a flat surface.
- **Message #3:** Wet cigarette butts and ashes before emptying them into the trash.
- **Message #4:** Smoke outside, if possible.
- **Message #5:** Do not smoke near oxygen tanks.

4. Do you ever use the stove to cook?

- **Main message:** Keep an eye on what you fry and stand by your pan when cooking with high temperatures.
- **Message #2:** Wear short sleeves or roll sleeves up while cooking.
- **Message #3:** Move anything that can burn away from the stove.

5. How do you stay warm when it gets cold outside?

IF RESIDENT USES A SPACE HEATER:

- **Main message:** Keep the space heater 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including you.
- **Message #2:** Unplug heaters when you aren't using them, including when you leave your home or go to bed.
- **Message #3:** Consider getting space heaters that automatically turn off if they tip over.

IF RESIDENT USES A FIREPLACE, WOOD STOVE, OR COAL STOVE:

- **Main message:** Have a professional clean and inspect your fireplace, wood stove, or coal stove once a year.
- **Message #2:** Do not burn green wood, artificial logs, boxes, or trash.
- **Message #3:** Use a metal mesh fireplace screen to keep sparks inside. If your fireplace has glass doors, leave them open while burning a fire.

HOW TO END THE DISCUSSION:

- Explain leave-behind materials.
- Ask if resident has any questions.
- Thank resident for his/her time.

Materials left with resident	Quantity
Flyer about smoking, cooking, and heating safety	
Flyer about smoke alarms and escape planning	
Other:	
Other:	