

Avoid Injury From Fire

If you live in a mobile home or recreational vehicle, you are at greater risk of injury from fire than if you live in an apartment or a freestanding home. The rectangular design and construction of a mobile home and the compactness of a recreational vehicle can promote the rapid spread of fire, heat, and poisonous gases. There are measures you may take to avoid injury from fire.



Do:

- ✓ Install smoke alarms. They are the first lines of defense against injury from fire. Place alarms in the kitchen and bedroom areas. Test the alarms frequently, and change the batteries at least twice a year.
- ✓ Practice using escape routes from your mobile home or RV, making sure that several routes are available.
- ✓ If you must exit your mobile home or RV in a fire, crawl with your head 12 to 24 inches from the floor to avoid inhaling smoke.
- ✓ Purchase five-pound ABC-rated fire extinguishers. Use the PASS technique to put out the fire. Keep the fire extinguisher close to high-traffic areas, in easy-to-access locations.
- ✓ Extinguish all cigarettes and cigars before disposing of them. A dropped cigarette or cigar can smolder for hours, and start a fire.
- ✓ Keep your mobile home or RV clutter-free. Clutter may block a fire exit.
- ✓ Provide adequate space between your mobile home and nearby structures.
- ✓ Locate your mobile home or RV a safe distance from power lines.
- ✓ Use surge protectors.
- ✓ Teach your children not to play with matches or lighters.
- ✓ Repair or replace a refrigerator that smells of ammonia. The smell of ammonia indicates that the refrigerator may be leaking hydrogen, a highly explosive gas.
- ✓ Consider placing rescue alert stickers in your mobile home or RV.
- ✓ Install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your mobile home or RV.

Do Not:

- ⊘ Risk injury from fire by smoking in bed.
- ⊘ Risk injury from fire by using cooktops and ovens for heating your mobile home. Suffocation may occur if the cooktop and oven consume the oxygen in an enclosed space.
- ⊘ Risk injury from fire by leaving cooking unattended.
- ⊘ Risk injury from fire by wearing loose-fitting clothes when you are cooking.
- ⊘ Risk injury from fire by overloading electrical outlets.
- ⊘ Risk injury from fire by storing extremely combustible materials — gasoline, butane, and propane — in a mobile home or RV.



Pull the pin at the top of the cylinder.

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire.

Squeeze or press the handle.

Sweep the stream of liquid or powder from side to side at the base of the fire until the fire is out. Shut off the extinguisher and watch for rekindling of the fire — even when the fire appears to be out. The fire can easily ignite again.

The PASS Technique





If a Fire Breaks Out...

Stay calm. Evacuate everyone immediately using pre-planned exit routes.

Keep in mind that smoke inhalation accounts for 75 percent of the deaths associated with fires. If you need to escape through smoke, crawl toward the closest safe exit with your head 12 to 24 inches above the floor.

If your clothing catches fire, don't panic. Running only makes the flames worse. Instead, "Stop, Drop and Roll."

Do not go back inside a burning structure for any reason. Call 9-1-1 immediately from a portable phone, a neighbor's phone or a nearby business.

SAMPLE COPY

Don't Let It

Happen To You...

The United States has one of the highest death rates from fire in the industrialized world. Occupants of mobile homes and recreational vehicles are especially at risk. This pamphlet will help you avoid injury from fire.



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Fire Safety

for Occupants of Mobile Homes and Recreational Vehicles