

SCORE A HOME RUN FOR FIRE SAFETY

No one expects fire to strike, yet every year 400,000 house fires occur. House fires kill about 4,000 people annually, injure about 25,000, and cause more than \$10 billion in property damage. To be safe at home, **Cover the Bases** of fire prevention.

Safe at Home

Here's a winning game plan to cover Home Plate and protect your family and property.

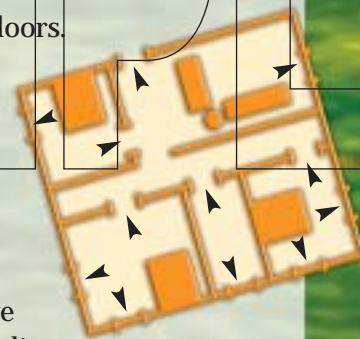


Smoke Alarms: Working smoke alarms *double* your team's chances of surviving a house fire! Here's the call:

- One or more smoke alarms on each level of the home.
- A smoke alarm in or just outside each bedroom.
- Test smoke alarms once a month.
- Replace batteries twice a year or if the battery alarm signals.

Safe Escape: In case of a fire, head for the outfield. Get the whole team out safe:

- Draw an escape plan, showing all windows and doors.
- Know two ways out of every room.
- Crawl low under smoke and test doors for heat.
- Include a safe meeting place a short distance from your home.
- Practice your plan, day and night, at least twice a year.



Automatic Sprinklers: Fire sprinklers have become more affordable, so consider including them in your remodeling or new construction plans.

Round the Bases

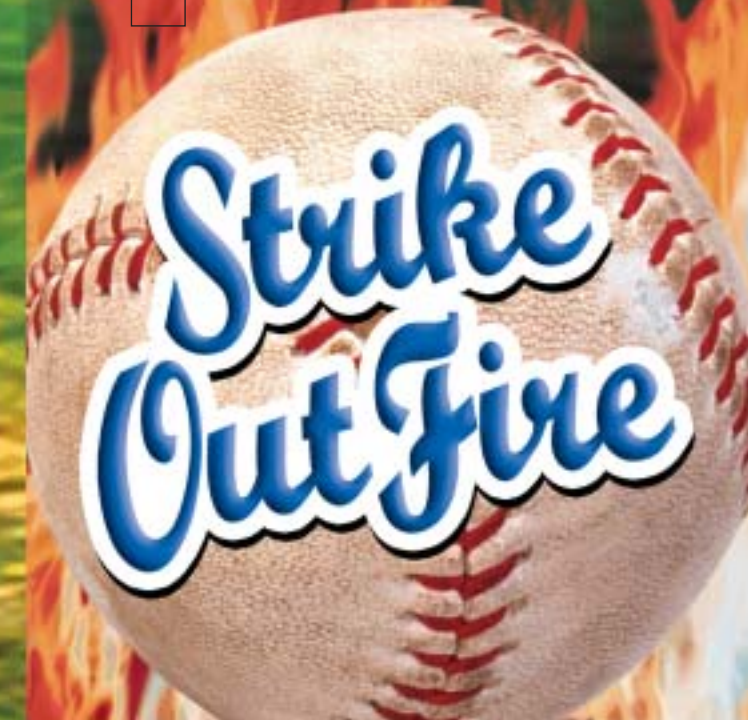
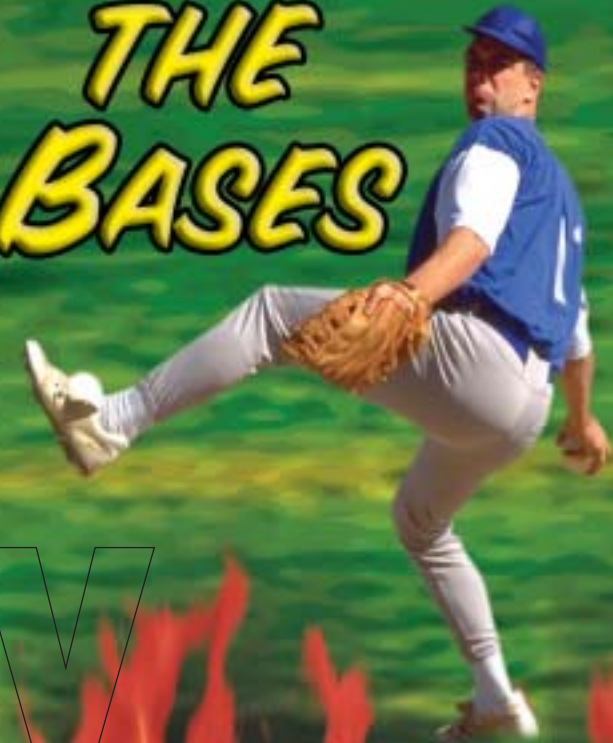
When it comes to fire safety, planning for a safe escape is essential. To **Strike Out Fire**, you need to *prevent* home fires from starting in the first place.

FIRE SAFETY SCOREBOARD

HOME											10
FIRE											0

Cover the Bases of fire prevention. A clean, well-supervised kitchen, a carefully maintained heating system, and adequate, safe home wiring help you **Strike Out Fire** before it can score against your home team.

COVER THE BASES



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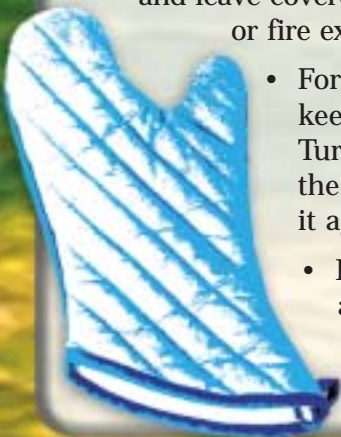
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COVER THE BASES

KITCHEN SAFETY

Run, don't walk, to the First Base of home fire prevention, Kitchen Safety. About 30% of house fires start in the kitchen. These fires kill over 300 people and injure over 4,600 each year.

- Never leave cooking food unattended on the stove or in the oven.
- Keep potholders, towels, food packaging, and curtains well away from cooking appliances.
- Clean up spills, crumbs, and grease from stovetops, ovens, and toasters. Don't allow contents to overflow pots. Use the lowest effective heat for cooking.
- Remove covers from microwaved food carefully, and do not use wet potholders. Both can be sources of steam burns.
- Turn pot handles toward the center of the stove to prevent tipping.
- Wear close fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Keep kids and pets at least three feet from cooking areas.
- For a grease fire, slide a lid over the pan. Turn off the heat and leave covered until cool. Never use water, baking soda, or fire extinguishers.
- For fires in standard or microwave ovens, keep the door closed to suffocate the fire. Turn off the heat or unplug the unit. Have the microwave serviced before you use it again.
- If a kitchen fire does not go out right away, leave the house. Use a neighbor's phone to call the fire department.



HEATING SAFETY

Don't let fire steal Second Base. Faulty, poorly maintained, or dangerously used heating systems are the second leading cause of home fires. They kill over 450 people and injure 1,500 each year.

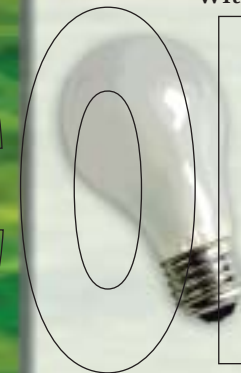
- Keep flammable objects at least three feet from space heaters. Turn off space heaters when you go to sleep or leave the room.
- Examine gas and electric heaters for possible damage. Inspect lines, connectors, valves, wires, and fuses. Replace if damaged.
- Use the correct fuel in kerosene heaters. Refill and use according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Cover fireplaces with metal or glass screens to contain sparks. Burn seasoned firewood, not paper or trash. Have chimneys professionally cleaned each year.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

When you cover Third Base, Electrical Safety, you're nearly home free. House fires associated with wiring, switches, outlets, plugs, and other electrical equipment kill over 350 people and injure over 1,300 annually.

- Replace loose or frayed electrical cords or plugs.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- Avoid plugging several appliances into one outlet. If you must do so, use a power strip with a built-in circuit breaker.
- Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each outlet.
- If you have small children, cover electrical outlets with plastic safety covers.
- Place lamps away from flammable items. Use recommended wattage light bulbs.
- Keep electrical appliances away from water. Fatal electrocutions can occur if appliances contact water.
- Keep cords clear of countertop edges. Children can be injured by pulling appliances onto themselves.
- Have a licensed electrician evaluate your wiring to make sure it is adequate for your appliances.



Strike Out Fire

