
City of Rancho Mirage Fire Department

HOME FIRE PREVENTION: TIME-TESTED WAYS TO PREVENT & SURVIVE A FIRE

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires. An overwhelming number of fires occur in the home. There are many prevention methods you can use to help protect you and your family in case of a fire.

Every Home Should Have at Least One Working Smoke Alarm – Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in the home are considered one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire. It is recommended to install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test it monthly, keep it free of dust and replace the batteries at least once a year.

Prevent Electrical Fires – Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.

Use Appliances Wisely – Overheating, unusual smells, shorts and sparks are all warning signs that appliances need to be shut off, then replaced or repaired. Unplug appliances when not in use. Use safety caps to cover all unused outlets, especially if there are small children in the home.

Alternate Heaters – When using portable heaters, keep anything that could be combustible at least three feet away. Keep fire in the fireplace by using fire screens and have your chimney cleaned annually. Kerosene heaters should be used only where approved. Never use gasoline or camp-stove fuel.

Plan Your Escape – Practice an escape plan from every room in the house. Caution everyone to stay low to the floor when escaping from fire and never open doors that are hot. Select a location where everyone can meet after escaping the house.

Caring for Children and Senior Citizens – Children are naturally curious about fire. Many play with matches and lighters. Tragically, children set over 20,000 house fires every year.

Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching your children that fire is a tool, not a toy. Senior citizens are especially vulnerable to fire hazards because many live alone and can't respond quickly. Prepare a plan to assist seniors in the event of a fire.