



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?

- *Eighty percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.*
- *Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 700 Americans each year and injure 3,000 more.*
- *Some electrical fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects, but many more are caused by misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.*
- *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

APPLIANCE SAFETY

LIFE-SAVING TIPS

- 1 Regularly inspect your extension cords for fraying and never use an extension cord as permanent wiring.
- 2 Instead of a simple extension cord, get a UL-approved unit with built-in circuit breakers.
- 3 Routinely check your wiring. Look for outlets that don't work, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- 4 Never overload outlets or extension cords.
- 5 Immediately repair appliances or lamps that sputter or spark.
- 6 Keep appliances away from wet areas in the kitchen, bathroom, basement and garage.
- 7 If an appliance has a three-prong plug, never force it into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- 8 Don't let children play near electrical space heaters. Keep clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least three feet away from heaters.
- 9 In case of a fire, stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and have an escape plan already worked out.
- 10 Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test the batteries every month and change them at least once a year.