

Could it happen to me?

“THE HOTEL IS ON FIRE!”

The husband heard his wife's cry before he was completely awake. Grabbing his overcoat, he threw it around his wife's shoulders and said, “Come on, let's get out of here.”

The night before, they had explored the fire exit locations and now headed for the nearest. Smoke and searing heat were there ahead of them, so they raced back to their room only to come up short at the door.

“Did you bring your key card?”
“Don't you have yours?”

Their questions were answered when a frantic search of his overcoat pockets turned the key up at last. The smoke thickened. The couple hurried back into their room only to find smoke pursuing them through the cracks around the door. He remembered packing a roll of masking tape in his suitcase to remove lint. Quickly, they taped the cracks around the door and waited for the firefighters to arrive.

Help came and directed them to safety. The couple later learned that many people had died of smoke inhalation because they had not taken their keys with them when they left their rooms. They were very thankful that they had planned ahead and knew how to handle such an emergency.

Remember, each time you return to your room, put your room key in the same place so that you can find it in the dark.

When you check-in at a hotel, always locate the 2 nearest emergency exits. Also, before leaving home, pack a small flashlight and a roll of masking tape. Place them beside your key. When trapped in a room, focus on two things: packing the room as smoke free as possible until you are rescued, and alerting the fire department of your location.

Could It Happen To Me? Stay Calm & Don't Panic



FIRE CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!

If you are ever in a fire,
STAY CALM & DON'T PANIC!

With advance planning and precaution, you will survive!

**EMERGENCY
FIRE & AMBULANCE
742-3300**

**POLICE
DIAL 911
GIVE NAME, LOCATION
& NEAREST INTERSECTION**

The Following are Actual Statistics...Don't Become One

Statistics show that, on average during our lifetime, each of us can expect to be involved in two or three fires serious enough to call the fire department.

Whether your fires occur at home, in a hospital, or a hotel, the same principles for survival apply.

PLANNING AHEAD IS VITAL

People who have planned in advance what to do in a fire emergency and have the determination to survive are most likely to do so.

COOK WITH CARE

If you leave something cooking on the stove when someone calls, "come look at this!" or when the phone rings, you may find the kitchen engulfed in flames before you return.

Unattended equipment is the leading cause of ignition in kitchen fires. **Never walk away from the stove while cooking and always double check that all oven and stove dials have been turned off when finished.** Also, in



more than 1/3 of kitchen fires, oil, grease or some other type of fat was the first material to ignite. **Keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach in the kitchen and remember, never use water on a grease fire!** Instead, smother flames with the pan's lid or baking soda.

FIREPLACE SAFETY
A man cleaned out his fireplace and put the ashes in a paper bag, which was placed into a plastic can.

There had been no fire in that fireplace for three days, yet half the house burned down before the firefighters could get there. **Place ashes in metal cans with metal lids.**



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

It is estimated that 75% of all U.S. homes have at least one working smoke alarm.

However, homes without smoke alarms, or working smoke alarms, account for approximately 2/3 of home fire deaths. It is important to install and maintain smoke alarms on every level of your home and in all sleeping areas. **Never remove working smoke alarm batteries and be sure to keep spare batteries on hand.** In recent

years, the number 1 reason a smoke alarm failed to operate in home fires was a missing or disconnected battery. Dead batteries and missing batteries are responsible for almost 3/4 of smoke alarm failures. **Remember to test your smoke alarms once a month!**



KNOW YOUR MEETING PLACE

In Pennsylvania, a mother awoke to the smell of smoke and the sound of the smoke alarm at 5 am. She quickly rushed two of her children out the front door of their home and raced back into the burning



building to reach her small child sleeping in an upstairs bedroom. Unknown to her, a neighbor had gone in the back door, up to the child's bedroom and had carried her out. The mother continued to search for her child in the upstairs bedroom, but was overcome by smoke and died. **Remember, never re-enter a burning building! Get out and go to your family's meeting place outside away from the home.**



EXIT DRILL PLANNING

A well-planned and frequently rehearsed escape plan is absolutely vital to the safety of all household members. Draw a floor plan showing at least two ways out of each room. Special consideration should be made for infants, the very old or physically impaired individuals. Have a pre-established meeting place after you leave your house. Discuss the meeting place with your neighbors. **Practice your escape plan with all family members at least twice a year.**