

HOW TO BE FIRE SAFE

PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS



Enter your address below



CALLING 911

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EDMONTON FIRE RESCUE AND FIRE PREVENTION

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services protects life, property and the environment by providing excellence in services and public safety. We are committed to ensuring the safety of all Edmontonians. One of the ways we accomplish that is through public education.

Fire statistics show that most fire injuries and deaths occur in the home. The majority of fire injuries and deaths can be prevented just by following a few, simple fire safety tips and knowing about the potential hazards.

Visit www.edmonton.ca for more information.



In the event of a fire emergency:

- Remove yourself and others from immediate danger
- Close all doors
- Call 911 from a safe location

DON'T BE AFRAID:

911 is your number for help in all emergencies.

Visit www.3minutedrill.alberta.ca for more information.

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SMOKE ALARMS

A smoke alarm is your first line of defence if there is a fire in your home. Fire fatalities occur as a result of breathing in smoke and toxic gases, not from the fire itself. Early detection is vital for survival.

Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and batteries should be replaced every time you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time (Spring and Fall).

Test your smoke alarm monthly.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

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CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTORS

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is called the silent killer because it has no odor. Heating and cooking systems, fire places and attached garages are all sources of CO that can contaminate your home. Maintenance of these systems is very important.

Install and test Carbon Monoxide Detectors as per the manufacturer's specifications. If a CO or fire alarm sounds, go to a fresh air location and immediately call 911.

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USING CANDLES SAFELY

Candles are one of the leading causes of fires in the home. Follow these simple tips to keep your family safe:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended – even for a few moments.
- Never leave a candle burning while you are asleep.
- Candles must be secured in a non-combustible holder.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Never place a candle near combustibles such as papers, decorations or drapes.
- Candle wicks should be cut to approximately ¼ inch prior to lighting.
- When you GO OUT, BLOW OUT.

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COOKING WITH CARE

Cooking is the leading cause of fires in homes. If you have a cooking fire in a pot or pan, turn off the source of heat and slowly slide a lid over top to cover the fire. Always have a pot lid nearby.

Fires can happen quickly and without warning. Remember to:

- Never leave anything that is cooking unattended – even for a moment.
- Never cook under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Use back burners when possible and always turn pot handles inward.

Should a fire occur, call 911 immediately and evacuate your home.

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SMOKER'S MATERIALS

Smoking is one of the leading causes of fire deaths.

Each year, inappropriately discarded smoker's materials cause millions of dollars in damages. If you smoke, make sure you:

- Always use a deep, non-combustible receptacle that cigarettes can fall into.
- Do not extinguish smoker's materials in plant pots, potting soil, peat moss or other types of soil.
- Ensure that matches and cigarettes are wet before you empty them into a garbage receptacle. This will prevent them from smoldering and starting a fire.
- Keep smoker's materials, including lighters and matches, out of reach of children.

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FIRE PITS

If you are using a fire pit, it must meet the standards outlined in the City of Edmonton Community Standards Bylaw.

According to this bylaw, your fire pit must:

- be at least 3 metres (10 feet) from buildings, property lines, overhead power lines and any other combustibles (trees, etc.)
- not exceed 0.6 metres (2 feet) in height
- not exceed 1 metre (3 feet) in width or diameter
- have enclosed sides made from bricks, concrete blocks or heavy-gauge metal
- have a spark-arrestor mesh screen with openings no larger than 1.25 cm (½ inch)

Only burn clean fuel, such as natural gas, dry wood or charcoal, when using a fire pit. Remember, it is illegal to burn rubber, plastic, or any material that generates unacceptable amounts of dense smoke which can be noxious, offensive or toxic.

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BARBECUE SAFETY

- Make sure the burner holes and tubes connected to the burners are rust and debris free and that the burner throat, where the propane enters the burner, is free of dust or cobwebs.
- Soap test all hoses and joints regularly. Leave the barbecue valve off and the cylinder valve on. Spread the soap and water solution generously on all fittings and the hose. If bubbles appear and become larger or increase in number, then you have a leak. Never check for leaks with an open flame.
- Always use gas grills outdoors. Grilling in the garage with the door open does not allow for enough ventilation and could cause an accumulation of carbon monoxide.
- When lighting your barbecue, have the match or lighter already burning with the barbecue lid open before you turn on the propane.
- In order to prevent propane from getting trapped in the hose after each use, turn off the propane tank cylinder valve first, then the "ON/OFF" valve on the barbecue.
- Never leave a lit barbecue unattended.
- Make sure your barbecue is at least one metre (three feet) from your house or other combustible objects.
- Never move a lit barbecue.

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CHARCOAL BARBECUES

- Never use gasoline to get a charcoal barbecue started. Use only charcoal lighting fluid.
- Wait for at least a minute before lighting fluid, soaked coals in order for explosive vapours to dissipate. Before you light the coals, put the lighter fluid at a safe distance away from the fire.
- Never spray lighter fluid on hot coals. You could end up with explosive results.
- Always extinguish the coals when you're finished barbecuing. Submerge coals in a metal pail of water while using tongs and wearing oven mitts.
- Always keep children and pets away from a hot barbecue.
- Always use the lid provided with charcoal barbecues.

Note: Solid fuel BBQ's are prohibited for apartment use.

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HOME HEATING

Every year, home heating devices cause a number of fires throughout the City of Edmonton. These simple tips can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

- If you smell gas, leave the building immediately and call 911 for help.
- Maintain a one metre minimum of space around furnaces and space heaters.
- Ensure that space heaters are placed in a stable location protected from accidental contact with children and pets.
- Plug space heaters directly into the wall. Never use an extension cord.
- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Always keep furnace access covers in place.
- Be sure to lubricate your furnace fan twice a year. Always use proper oil and turn furnace off prior to removing access cover.
- Have your heating equipment serviced annually.

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PREVENTING FIRES STARTED BY CHILD'S PLAY

- Supervise young children closely. Do not leave them alone even for short periods of time.
- Keep matches and lighters in a secured drawer or cabinet.
- Have your children tell you when they find matches and lighters.
- Check under beds and in closets for burned matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.
- Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Teach your children the difference between safe and unsafe fires.

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CHILD FIRESETTERS PROJECT

Fire started by children playing with fire are a leading cause of fire deaths and injuries in Alberta. Many families are left homeless, and millions of dollars in property go up in flames. Alberta fire statistics show that about 20 per cent of child fire victims died in fires they started themselves. Matches and lighters were used in 80 per cent of the destructive fires started by children. Many of these fires could have been prevented.

If your child has “played” with fire, deliberately started a fire, or if you are unsure of your child’s history with fire – please call Edmonton Fire Rescue Services’ Fire Prevention Office. The Child Firesetters Project is a one time meeting which includes a parent interview, child interview, incident overview, education discussion, video discussion and referral to professional help, when necessary.

Our trained personnel can help curious children understand that playing with fire is very dangerous. Deliberate firesetting is a serious matter. Children who have deliberately started a fire may be indirectly indicating that they are having problems. Edmonton Fire Rescue Services can help you with a referral to someone specially trained to provide assessment and help with this behaviour.

- If you find your child playing with fire, call 780.496.3628.

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ELECTRICAL FIRES

Statistics show that December is the most dangerous month in terms of electrical fires. The weather is cold and days are short, so more heating and lighting appliances are used around the home.

- Always keep an eye out for warning signs of a potential problem, including plugs and sockets that feel hot to the touch.
- Do not use any appliances or extension cords with frayed wiring where the lead enters the plug, or exposed wires.
- Do not plug several appliances into one socket. This could cause an overload, which can lead to a short circuit and a fire.
- Never plug a second appliance into a socket that is connected to a high-use appliance such as a television or coffee maker.
- Never run cords under rugs, carpets or mats as they can fray or snap unnoticed.
- Always use the correct wattage when fitting a light bulb in a lamp. The bulb can overheat or short circuit, which can cause a fire.
- Extension cords should not be used in place of permanent wiring.



FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING

Most fires occur in the middle of the night, when people are sleeping. In the event of a fire, you will not have time to consider your escape options. It is important to practice your escape plan regularly so you will be prepared should a fire occur.

Be sure to identify two exits from each room, especially the bedrooms. Ensure that your plan accommodates the needs of children and those with disabilities.

Arrange a safe meeting spot as part of your escape plan. Use a neighbour's house, school, etc. to ensure the meeting place is safe and away from the fire.

Part of your escape plan should include an evacuation kit. Examples of items in this kit are as follows:

- warm clothing
- medication, doctor's and pharmacist's phone numbers
- ID, bank and credit cards, cash, keys, glasses, hearing aids, dentures

Have your address posted beside your telephone for your children and babysitters, in case of an emergency.

FAMILY/EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Each family member and contacts should have all these contact numbers. Choose an out-of-town contact that everyone can reach in an emergency. A friend or relative who lives in another part of your city should also be listed and may be used as a contact and/or evacuation location.

Emergency Numbers, Edmonton & Area:

911	Fire, Ambulance, Police, Hazardous Materials Spills
311	Sewer Emergency
780-420-5585	Gas Emergency
780-412-4500	Electrical Emergency
780-412-6800	Water Emergency
1-800-332-1414	Poison Control

Household Members:

Member #1

Name: _____
Work or school name: _____
Address: _____
Work or cell number: _____
E-mail: _____

Member #2

Name: _____
Work or school name: _____
Address: _____
Work or cell number: _____
E-mail: _____

Member #3

Name: _____
Work or school name: _____
Address: _____
Work or cell number: _____
E-mail: _____

Out of Area Contacts:

Contact #1

Name: _____
Work or school name: _____
Address: _____
Home or cell number: _____
E-mail: _____

Contact #2

Name: _____
Work or school name: _____
Address: _____
Home or cell number: _____
E-mail: _____

MAGNET WILL GO HERE

Regional Contacts

www.albertahealthservices.ca

Health Link: 780-408-LINK (408-5465)

Alberta Emergency Contact Agency:
aema.alberta.ca/ab_index.cfm

National Contacts

www.redcross.ca (888) 800-6493

www.publicsafety.gc.ca (800) 830-3118

www.salvationarmy.ca (416) 425-2111