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MAGNET WILL GO HERE

# HOW TO BE FIRE SAFE

*PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS*



Address

Phone Number

[EDMONTON.CA/FIRERESCUESERVICES](http://EDMONTON.CA/FIRERESCUESERVICES)



# 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 this 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 potential hazards.

Visit [www.edmonton.ca/fire-rescue-services](http://www.edmonton.ca/fire-rescue-services) for more information.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency 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: \_\_\_\_\_



01

# SMOKE ALARMS

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

Smoke alarms should be installed on **every level of your home** and **outside all sleeping areas**. They should be **tested monthly** and **replaced every ten years**.

Batteries should be replaced **at least once a year**.

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



02

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## **CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS**

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Carbon Monoxide (CO) is called the silent killer because it has no odour. Gas heating appliances, cooking systems, fireplaces; and attached garages are all sources of CO that can contaminate your home. Carbon monoxide can ignite or even explode when it builds up in an enclosed, unventilated area and comes in contact with a spark or flames, making a carbon monoxide leak not only a health concern, but also a fire hazard. Proper maintenance of these systems, by qualified professionals, is very important.

Install a CO detector near bedrooms to provide an early warning of this toxic gas. Battery-operated alarms should have their batteries replaced once a year and all CO alarms should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly.



03

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## USING CANDLES SAFELY

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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

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

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Some of the most dangerous and devastating fires are caused by improperly disposed of smoker's materials. Smoker's materials have caused hundreds of fires resulting in numerous deaths and injuries and hundreds of millions in damages. Edmontonians who smoke should:

- Always use deep, non-combustible containers, placed on sturdy tables that cigarettes can fall into.
- Be aware that potted plants, planters, and flower beds contain combustible material in the soil and are not to be used as ashtrays.
- Ensure that matches, cigarettes, and ashes 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.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen tanks are being used.
- Avoid lighting up when you are tired, intoxicated or have taken medication that causes drowsiness.



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## FIRE PITS

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If you are using a fire pit, it must meet the standards outlined in the City of Edmonton Community Standard's Bylaw #14600.

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, 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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## **GAS 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 1 metre (3 feet) from your house or other combustible objects.
- Never move a lit barbecue and make sure it has cooled completely before covering.
- Do not bring a propane tank indoors or store in enclosed spaces such as a garage or vehicle.
- Always keep children and pets away from a hot barbecue.



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## CHARCOAL BARBECUE SAFETY

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- 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 vapors to dissipate.
- Never spray lighter fluid on hot coals. You could end up causing an explosion or fire.
- Always extinguish the coals when you're finished barbecuing. Submerge coals in a metal pail of water 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 (as per Alberta Fire Code).



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## HOME HEATING

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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 1 metre (3 feet) 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.
- Have your heating equipment serviced annually.



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## **PREVENTING FIRES STARTED BY CHILDREN**

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- Supervise young children closely when in the kitchen. Do not leave them alone even for short periods of time.
- Keep matches and lighters in a secured drawer or cabinet.
- Teach your children to tell you when they find matches and lighters.
- Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches and other 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 children the nature of fire: it is FAST, HOT, DARK and DEADLY!



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## CHILD FIRESETTERS PROJECT

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Alberta fire statistics show that about 20% of child fire victims died in fires they started themselves. Matches and lighters were used in 70% of the destructive fires started by children.

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 SAFETY

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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 house.

Here are some safety tips for preventing electrical fires:

- 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.
- Plug only one appliance into a receptacle at a time. Plugging more than one appliance into a receptacle could cause an overload, which can lead to a short circuit and a fire.
- 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.
- Only plug one space heater into a receptacle at a time.
- Arc fault short circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home by a qualified electrician.
- Have all electrical work in your home or business completed by a qualified electrician.



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# FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING

Fires may 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, seniors, those with disabilities and pets.

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

### Emergency Numbers, Edmonton & Area:

<b>911</b>	Fire, Ambulance, Police, Hazardous Materials Spills
<b>311</b>	City of Edmonton information for Edmonton Transit Services, Bylaw, garbage and recycling, sewer services, and recreation program registration. <b>Anyone requiring fire, ambulance, or police emergency assistance must call 911.</b>
<b>780-420-5585</b>	Gas Emergency
<b>780-412-4500</b>	Electrical Emergency
<b>780-412-6800</b>	Water Emergency
<b>1-800-332-1414</b>	Poison Control
<b>211</b>	Support Network – single access point to the health, human services, community resources, and government assistance people need every day as well as in time of crisis.
<b>780-423-4567</b>	Non-emergency Edmonton Police Services line
<b>780-408-5465</b>	Health Link 24 hours
<b>1-800-242-3447</b>	Alberta One-Call: <a href="http://www.alberta1call.com">www.alberta1call.com</a> Alberta Health Services <a href="http://www.albertahealthservices.ca">www.albertahealthservices.ca</a>



### In the event of a fire emergency:

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

### STAY CALM:

911 is your number for help in all emergencies.

Visit [www.3minutedrill.alberta.ca](http://www.3minutedrill.alberta.ca) for more information.