



Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

ALL-HAZARDS EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

"Practice Your Escape Plan!" is a theme of Fire Prevention Week. It's not enough to have a home fire escape plan. To escape safely, you've got to make sure that everyone in the home has practiced the plan. **According to a National Fire Protection Association poll, the majority of Americans have a fire escape plan, but most haven't practiced it.**

The most common reasons for a home fire are cooking (26%), heating equipment (16%), and electrical/wiring/lamps (13%).

Cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Most cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of common household items (e.g., food or grease, cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains, etc.).

- Always use cooking equipment tested and approved by a recognized testing facility.
- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February.

- Plug your electric-powered space heater into an outlet with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied or under circumstances when manufacturer's instructions say they should be turned off. Portable space heaters are so easy to knock over in the dark that they should be turned off when you go to bed, but make sure your primary heating equipment for the bedrooms is sufficient to avoid risks to residents from severe cold.
- Do not use your oven to heat your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area

For more information and to get a free fire escape plan, visit
www.firepreventionweek.org