

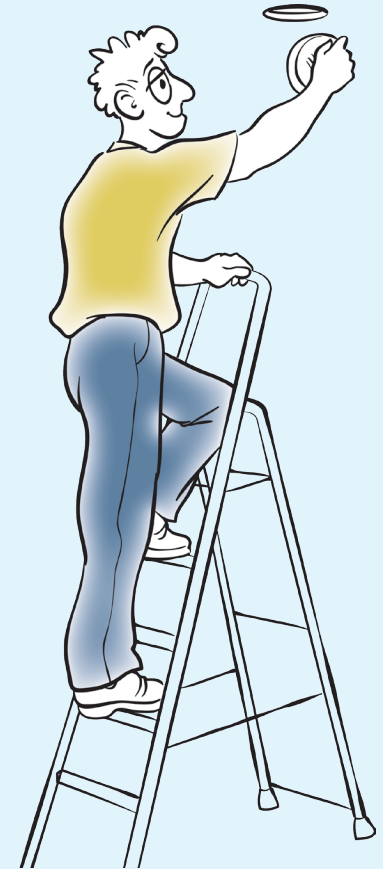
Home Is Where the Heart (of Safety) Is

Summer means sunshine, cookouts... and of course, home safety. Unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, and 48% of them occur in the home. But simple common sense measures, such as keeping a tidy space with unexposed cords, medications, and toys, will help to prevent in-home injuries.

Equally important, every home should be equipped with smoke and gas detection alarms. Carbon monoxide and other gases are silent threats, both odorless and colorless. Installing devices that test air quality to detect dangerous smoke or chemicals that are present is the only sure way to protect your home. So, always ensure these alarms are in working order by changing the batteries twice annually and testing the alarms every month.

Make sure your family is prepared and has a plan of action if an in-home alarm sounds. For fires, make sure your family is aware of all exit points. Educate your children on the proper ways to exit a house during a fire, such as staying low to the ground and how to "stop, drop, and roll." And always have a designated meeting spot away from the scene.

Being precautionous and prepared is the best way to make your family and home safe. For more information on how to protect your household from trouble, visit your local fire department.



Proper Smoke Detector Use Protects Your Family

3 of 5 fire-related deaths occur in homes that don't have a properly working detector.

- Install a smoke detector in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke detectors.
- Don't install detectors near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Install at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance to avoid false alarms.
- A chirping noise means you need to replace the batteries.
- Never paint a detector.
- Follow the manufacturer's battery recommendations.
- Keep the manufacturer's instructions for reference.

SOURCES: NSC, Safety Ed., Consumer Search, National Fire Protection Association