



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT #2



FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME

(NARRATOR)

Did you know...

...cooking is one of the leading cause of home fires and home injuries?

...heating equipment caused 22 percent of home fire deaths in 2008?

...electrical distribution or lighting equipment was the third leading cause of home fires in 2008?

Avoid becoming a statistic. Learn how to protect your family and your home from danger by following these simple safety rules inside your home.

(FIREFIGHTER: TOM McANENEY)

Cooking fires can happen easily, especially if food is left on the stove unattended. Keep an eye on cooking food, and be sure to keep curtains, oven mitts, pot holders and towels away from burners.

See how quickly this towel catches fire after coming in contact with a hot stove. Store cooking items so that you don't have to reach over the stove to get them while you are using the stove top or oven. Turn pot and pan handles to the side so that they don't catch on clothing.

Heating equipment, such as portable and fixed space heaters and wood stoves, can be dangerous if left unattended or placed near combustible materials. Always make sure you are in the room while heaters are running and make sure that all items, including furniture and bed sheets, are a safe distance away from the source.

Be careful when disposing of fireplace and wood-burning stove ash. Ash may seem out or extinguished but can actually be hot enough for several days to ignite nearby materials. Ash should be stored in a metal container with a lid. Before it is transferred to a plastic trash bin for pick-up, make sure the ash is no longer hot.

Bare light bulbs can also trigger fires if they are located near combustible materials such as drapes or cloth wall hangings. Make sure that light bulbs, including those in closets, have shades or gloves for protection. Be sure that the bulbs in your lights match what is safe for the lamp by looking at the sticker on the lamp indicating the maximum wattage.

(NARRATOR)

Despite all our best efforts, sometimes accidents occur. To be prepared, it makes sense to have a working fire extinguisher in your home to contain or put out small fires. Purchase a fire extinguisher that you can hold and operate easily and that has been listed and labeled by an independent testing laboratory.

(FIREFIGHTER: TOM McANENEY)

Remember the word PASS when fighting a fire using an extinguisher. Pull the pin, Aim for the base of the fire, Squeeze the handle all the way down to release the extinguishing agent, and Sweep from side to side until the fire appears to be out. Most extinguishers work in this fashion, but be sure to read the directions on yours before an emergency happens. If you have doubts about fighting the fire independently, don't do it. Get out and call 911.

(NARRATOR)

By following these simple steps, you can protect your home and your family from fires. The Abington Township Volunteer Fire Department is pleased to present you with these tips on home fire safety.

If you would like more information about volunteering for the Abington Township Fire Department, please stop by your local fire company or visit our web site at www.AbingtonFD.org.

