

:: Fire Prevention ::

In the United States, approximately 4,000 people lose their lives as a result of fires each year. Many others suffer serious or debilitating injuries. In addition to deaths and injuries, fires cause approximately \$9 billion dollars in damage in the U.S. yearly, much of it in peoples' homes. The importance of fire prevention in the workplace and at home cannot be overstated. Making an effort to prevent fires, on and off the job, saves lives and property, and provides a sense of security and well being.

Here are 10 safety tips to help you prevent fires, both at work and at home:

In your home

1. Install smoke detectors on every level of your home (including your basement) and test them weekly.
2. Never store gasoline in your basement or attached garage, and keep any flammable liquid away from ignition sources.
3. Store matches and other fire-starting devices in cabinets that are well above the reach of small children.
4. Check electrical cords regularly to insure they are not frayed, damaged or exposing bare wires.
5. Make sure there is at least three feet of clearance around any heating devices.

At work

1. Store flammable liquids in a flammable-storage cabinet, metal locker or approved location (check with your supervisor for appropriate locations). If you use flammable liquids in the performance of your job, have no more than a one day's supply at your work station.
2. Check electrical cords to insure they are not frayed, damaged or exposing bare wires.
3. Make sure your work area is kept clean and neat, removing combustible trash daily.
4. Do not try to bypass safety features on equipment.
5. Do not smoke in unauthorized areas. When smoking in approved locations, be sure to dispose of cigarette butts in appropriate containers.

For more information on fire prevention, contact your local fire department, safety professional, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency or the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Health & Safety Division at:

717-772-1635

