



Fire Safety at Home

Severn Fire & Emergency Services advises to be extra diligent about home fire safety during this time when families are staying home together due to the Covid19 pandemic.

National Fire Protection Association report the top fire causes in the home are:

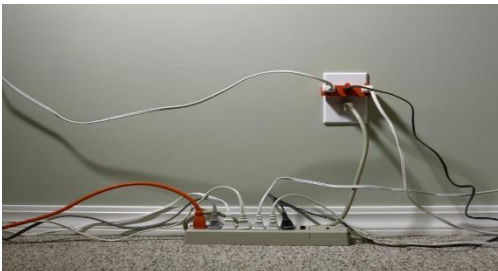
- Cooking
- Heating
- Electrical
- Smoking
- Candles



Cooking brings families together and provides an outlet for creativity. During the extended March break this could be an ideal way to occupy our children. Severn Fire urges families to cook with caution, stay in the kitchen while cooking and never leave your children alone in the kitchen. Keep everything that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging and towels away from your stovetop. Keep the pot lid nearby and should a pot fire occur remember your safety comes first. If you can't safely turn the heat off and put the lid on the pot, then get out quickly and call 911.



Heating your home with space heaters or keeping the fireplace going is possible with precautions to eliminate the risk of fire. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove or portable space heater. Remember to turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed. Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room and keep a kid free space from the front. Keep ashes in a metal container and a safe distance from your home.



Electrical Safety involves some of the simple everyday things we do, flipping a light switch, plugging in a coffee maker, or a laptop for example. Take note of outlets that feel warm or flickering of lights etc. Never use extension cords for any extended period. Use the proper light bulb watts for your lighting to avoid overheating. Ensure laptops and charges are not left on beds, chairs where items can be placed on top by mistake. Keep them in a clear area while charging.



Smoking material fires are preventable. As smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths it is especially important to be extra careful. Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches and other smoking materials up high and out of reach of children or in a locked cabinet. It is best to smoke outside and never discard cigarettes in vegetations such as potted plants as these are ignitable materials. If medical oxygen is in use, smokers should leave the building to smoke. Be aware that electronic cigarettes have also caused fires during charging of the batteries. Use these with caution.



Candles may be pretty to look at, but they are a cause of home fires. Severn Fire recommends using the flameless candles for safety. If you must use real candles, ensure they are out before leaving the room or going to bed. Keep them at least 1 foot away from all combustible materials. Use sturdy candle holders or use a glass chimney to avoid any contact with anything. Candles are only safe for burning for a short length of time depending on the size. This information will be on the packaging when you purchase them. To be safe extinguish often for a cool down.



Most importantly, ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. Check on your home fire escape plan to ensure all exits are clear and your family is aware of what is expected in the event of a fire emergency. This would be a good time to practice your home fire drill. Ensure your meeting place works.

Stay safe.