



When temperatures plummet in winter, most people light a cosy fire or snuggle up to a heater to keep warm. All of these heating efforts increase the risk of fires in the home. 24/7 Security Services urges everybody to be alert and to make sure everyone in your household is aware of the dangers of fire.

Only working smoke alarms save lives.

Smoke alarms are essential for home fire safety - they provide an early warning in the event of a fire and give you a chance to get out of the house to a safe location.

Install smoke alarms just outside the sleeping areas of your home so that the alarm sounds before the smoke reaches anyone asleep. For extra protection, you can install a smoke alarm in your child's bedroom and in the bedrooms of people who sleep with their doors closed. If someone in your household is deaf or hard of hearing, consider installing an alarm that combines flashing lights, vibration, and sound.

Keep smoke alarms in working order:

- Change alarm batteries once a year, at the same time each year
- Test your alarm every month by pressing the test button and listening for the beep
- Keep your alarm dust-free – clean it regularly
- Replace smoke alarms every ten years



Never leave burning candles unattended.

Keep a flashlight and batteries on hand for emergencies to prevent the need to use candles for emergency lighting during power outages.

If you do burn candles, always:

- Use sturdy holders and burn candles on even surfaces
- Keep candles away from children and pets
- Keep candles away from upholstery or window coverings
- Extinguish candles before leaving the room



Around the house

Ensure that your home insurance is up to date and provides adequate structural and contents cover.



Bedroom: Electric blankets, smoking in bed, space heaters, and overloaded wall sockets are all hazards in the bedroom. If you smoke, take it outside. Only use electric blankets with automatic shut-off functions.



Living Room: If you have a fireplace, your living room may be a hot spot for fire hazards. Keep the fireplace clean and clear of debris or flammable items. Use fire-safe tools like iron pokers to move around any logs. Turn off portable heaters and gas and electric fires before retiring for the night.



Laundry: It may seem like an odd place for fire hazards until you remember that dryer lint is flammable. When it comes to common areas in your home for fires to start, the laundry room is high risk. High-powered appliances can overheat, especially if the vents are not cleared out regularly.



Kitchen: Keep a fire blanket and suitable fire extinguisher in the kitchen. A fire blanket can smother flames either on a person or a stove. Never leave the kitchen unattended when frying, grilling or boiling food. Keep all combustibles, including oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, potholders and curtains, away from hot surfaces. Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many kitchen appliances and ensure electrical cords are not cracked or damaged.