

HOW AND WHY YOU SHOULD REGULARLY CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

Each floor of your home, including the basement, should be equipped with a smoke detector. It's also a good idea to put a smoke detector in every room. However, the most important thing of all is regularly checking that they work properly.

HOW TO INSPECT SMOKE DETECTORS

Once a month, press the "test" button on each of your smoke detectors. If you don't fear anything, replace the battery immediately.

In addition, you should confirm whether your detectors can actually detect the presence of smoke. Once a year blow out a candle under them. If they don't go off, then they need to be replaced as soon as possible.



SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

The best way to prevent casualties in the case of a fire is to have functioning smoke detectors. Here's why.

- Most fire-related casualties occur overnight. A smoke detector's alarm allows occupants to wake up and evacuate in time.
- Smoke inhalation is the leading cause of fire related death. Smoke spreads quickly, and occupants have on average two minutes to evacuate, before smoke inhalation becomes life threatening. Smoke detectors allow you to react before it's too late.

The bottom line is that well-functioning smoke detectors are the best way to keep you and your family safe.

Tips for preventing electrical fires in your home

Electrical fires are all too common. Here are some tips to prevent this type of disaster from occurring in your home.

- **Unplug heat-producing appliances.** Toasters, blow dryers, irons, kettles and any other heat generating tools should be unplugged when not in use. If they malfunction or are accidentally turned on, they can overheat and catch fire.
- **Only use extension cords temporarily.** Nothing should be left plugged into an ex-

ension cord permanently. If necessary, have a professional electrician install more outlets in your home.

- **Get your electrical system updated.** Modern wiring reduces the possibility that an electrical fire will start. It may also save you money on your insurance policy.
- **Check electrical cords before plugging them in.** Cords that are frayed, cracked or loose aren't safe. Get wires repaired before plugging them in.

FIRE Prevention WEEK

October 6-12, 2019

Not every hero wears a cape.
PLAN and PRACTICE your ESCAPE!

What to do if there's a fire in your kitchen

More house fires start in the kitchen than in any other room. Of these, most are caused by grease. Here's what to do if a fire breaks out while you're cooking.

If the fire is contained and it isn't spreading quickly, you can extinguish it. The first step is to eliminate the heat source. If it's possible to do so without injuring yourself, turn off the oven or stove.

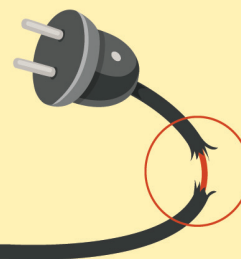
Next, you need to deprive the fire of oxygen. In the case of an oven fire, leave the door closed and wait for the fire to extinguish itself. If it's in a pan, smother it with a lid or baking sheet. To do this safely, hold the cover in front of you like a shield and cover the pot from front to back. Don't throw the lid on the fire, as you risk spreading the flames around.

If you don't have a cover, baking soda can be used to smother the flames. However, you'll likely need more



than the small box you keep in your fridge. You can also use a fire extinguisher, as long as it's rated B, which designates that it's safe to use on grease fires. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.

If the fire is burning too hotly to be smothered or it begins to spread fast, evacuate the house and call the fire department immediately.



- **Don't remove the third prong on a power cord.** The third prong protects your home from electrical malfunctions. If your home only has two-prong outlets, call an electrician to get them updated.

Above all, be familiar with the signs of electrical problems. This includes burn marks or discolorations around sockets, switches or fixtures; appliances and cords that feel hot to the touch; and breakers that regularly trip.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

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FIRE SAFE

Be Aware & Prepared.

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211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801

333 E. Main St., Hermiston, OR 97838

1-800-522-0255

www.eastoregonian.com

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