

Mountain View Fire District's top tips for Fire Safety in your home:

- Test your smoke detectors at least once monthly. Studies have consistently shown that victims of residential fires with functional smoke alarms were twice as likely to survive a fire than those without alarms, or with nonfunctioning alarms.
- Change your smoke detector batteries at least twice per year. We recommend that you change your batteries when you change your clock at the beginning of and end of daylight savings time in the spring and fall.
- Be sure that the areas surrounding your hot water heater and furnace are clear at all times. Any item within three feet of a furnace or hot water heater is vulnerable to combustion, and could cause a fire in your home.
- 'Put a lid on it'. Extinguish grease fires by covering the pan with a lid, this reduces the available oxygen and puts the fire out. Putting water on a grease fire will make the fire intensify.
- Have and practice an escape plan. You and your family should know all of the exits in your home. Plan at least two exits from every room. Designate a meeting place and practice your escape plan regularly. Research has shown that those families who have and practice their plan in case of an emergency are much more prepared and fare better when an emergency occurs.
- Crawl low in smoke. The harmful and fatal gases in smoke will gravitate to the ceiling. If you are in a hazardous atmosphere, crawling low will enable you to stay below the poisons.
- Get out. Stay out. It is of vast importance that you NEVER go back into a building that is on fire. When you hear a smoke alarm, get out immediately, meet at your designated meeting area, and stay out until firefighters tell you that it is okay to go back in.
- Keep all home exit ways clear of furniture and toys. Having any obstruction in the exits of your home will make it hard to escape in an emergency situation. Even if the exits seem clear, an emergency may weaken your ability to move around obstacles, making clear exits extremely important.
- Have a fire extinguisher available in your home. While we do not recommend that you try to fight a fire in your home, a fire extinguisher could help you and your family protect yourselves while you are exiting the building.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide detector in your home. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that comes from burning fossil fuels such as gasoline, coal, propane and natural gas. If these fuels are burned incompletely, CO is produced as is known as the "silent" killer.