

# Is your home fire-safe?



Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

- Smoke alarms are on every level of the home and inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- People can hear smoke alarms from any room.
- People who smoke only smoke outside and never in bed.
- People who smoke never smoke around medical oxygen.
- There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- The escape plan considers everyone's needs (if one uses a wheelchair, cane, hearing aid, or glasses).
- The escape plan is practiced at least 2 times a year.



## Can everyone hear the alarm?

If not, consider another type of smoke alarm—like one that has a different sound or one that comes with a bed shaker or strobe light.

U.S. Fire Administration



FEMA



Learn more about fire prevention: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

# Don't Let Your World Go Up In Smoke.



## Home Fire Safety Tips For Older Adults

# Home Fire Safety Tips for Older Adults

Older adults are more likely to die in home fires. They may move more slowly or have trouble hearing a smoke alarm because of hearing loss.

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## Be a fire-safe smoker.

**Smoking is the number 1 cause of home fire deaths across the country. You can prevent fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials.**

**Smoke outside.** Many things in your home can catch on fire if they touch something hot like a cigarette or ashes. It is always safer to smoke outside.

**Never smoke in bed.** Mattresses and bedding can catch on fire easily. Do not smoke in bed because you might fall asleep with a lit cigarette.

**Do not smoke after taking medicine that makes you tired.** You may not be able to prevent or escape from a fire if you are not alert.

**Never smoke around medical oxygen.** Medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is near. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire.

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## Have working smoke alarms.

**Without a smoke alarm, you may not wake up from the smoke, and it can kill you in your sleep. This is why home fires are the most dangerous at night or when people are sleeping.**

**Have working smoke alarms.** You should have a smoke alarm on every level of your home. You should also have a smoke alarm inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.

**Test your smoke alarms once a month.** Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working.

**Can you hear your smoke alarm?** The standard smoke alarm sound does not wake some people. If you cannot hear your alarm, you may need an alarm that has a different sound or one that comes with a bed shaker or strobe light.

**Replace smoke alarms after 10 years.** Smoke alarms do not last forever. If your alarms are 10 years old or older, replace them with new alarms.

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## Make an escape plan around your abilities.

**You may have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home if there is a fire. It is important to have an escape plan before a fire occurs, so everyone is prepared and ready to act.**

**Make a fire escape plan.** Talk about what you should do to be safe. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if there is a fire. Practice your fire escape plan at least 2 times a year.

**Know 2 ways out of every room.** It is important to find 2 ways out of every room in your home in case one exit is blocked or dangerous to use.

**Think about your needs.** If you need to use a wheelchair or a cane, make sure you can get to them easily and get out quickly. If you wear a hearing aid or eyeglasses, put them next to your bed while you are sleeping.

**Have a phone near the bed in case of an emergency.** Know the local emergency number in case of a fire. If you are trapped and cannot get out of your bedroom, you will need to call for help.