

HOUSE FIRES

One of the most common emergencies experienced by Canadians is a fire in their home. In Canada, house fires are most likely to occur between December and March. The most common causes of house fires are cooking (leaving the stove unattended), improperly extinguishing cigarettes and candles left unattended. Learn how to plan and prepare before, during and after a house fire to be Red Cross ready. .



Before

- Stay in the kitchen when using the stove top. If you have to leave the room, turn off the stove.
- Keep items that can catch on fire, such as clothing, towels and plastic, a minimum of three feet away from heat sources, such as space heaters and stove tops.
- Do not smoke in bed.
- Do not leave candles unattended.
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home.
- Create a fire escape plan, including a list of emergency exits and a place outside for your family to meet.

During

- Follow your escape plan. Get out and stay out.
- Call for help from a neighbours' house.
- While exiting the building, crawl under low smoke.
- If smoke, heat or flames block your exit, stay in the room with the doors closed. Place a wet towel under the door and call 9-1-1. Open a window and wave a brightly coloured cloth or use a flashlight to signal for help.

After

- Have injuries treated by a medical professional.
- Check with the fire department to make sure your residence is safe to enter.
- Wear protective gear, including boots, safety glasses and rubber gloves when cleaning up.
- Get a copy of the Red Cross Guide to Fire Recovery:
http://www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/dm_cr_fire_recovery.pdf.