

Fire Safety

A Fact Sheet on Preventing Fire-related Injuries

VIRGINIA 2003 INJURIES AND FATALITIES

- 191 persons were hospitalized due to fire/flame injuries and 262 were hospitalized for burns from hot objects/substances.
- Total cost for fire-related injury hospitalization in 2003 was \$11,716,637.
- The average cost per person was \$11,893.
- The average hospital stay was 7 days per patient.
- 93 persons died as a result of fire-related injuries.



FACTS

- Virginia has more than 20,000 fires per year.
- These fires cause more than \$2.5 million per week in property loss.
- In Virginia, fire is the 7th leading cause of unintentional injury death.
- Children under age 5 are more than twice as likely to die in a fire than the average resident.
- Residents over 65 are almost 4 times as likely to die in a fire than the average resident.
- Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths, but in the months of December, January and February, smoking and heating equipment shared the lead in fire deaths.
- Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

SAFETY TIPS

Smoke Alarms

- Install a smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and on every floor of your home.
- Test smoke alarms once per month.
- Replace batteries every 6 months (change your batteries at the same time you change your clocks).

Remove Fire Hazards

- Lock up matches and lighters so that they are out of children's reach.
- Keep children away from cooking and heating appliances.
- Do not leave burning cigarettes unattended.

Design and Practice a Fire Escape Plan

- In the plan, discuss 2 different ways to get out of every room.
- Plan your escape around your abilities.
- Choose a safe place to meet in front of the house or apartment building.
- Once safely outside the residence, call the fire department or 911.

Home Heating Safety

- Regularly clean all types of home heating equipment.
- Place space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything combustible or flammable.

Cooking Safety

- Keep a working fire extinguisher within reach in the kitchen.
- Keep children away from cooking appliances.
- Treat surface burns by placing them in cool water for 10-15 minutes.

RESOURCES

Virginia Department of Health
Center for Injury & Violence Prevention
www.vahealth.org/civp
1-800-732-8333

Virginia Department of Fire Programs
<http://www.vafire.com/>
804-371-0220

National Fire Protection Association
<http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/home/index.asp>

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

For More Information Contact:

Virginia Department of Health, Center for Injury & Violence Prevention
109 Governor Street, 8th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219
1-800-732-8333, www.vahealth.org/civp

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