

# Home Fire Safety

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Harmon County



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## Why Read This Guide?

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This guide will help you:

- Make sure your smoke alarm is always working to help keep you safe from fires
- Create a home escape map and practice a home fire drill
- Reduce fire risks in your home
- Be more fire safe at home

# Install Smoke Alarms

Most fires that kill start at night while you are sleeping. Smoke alarms detect the smoke before it reaches your sleeping area and wakes you with a loud sound. Smoke is deadly.

- Install a smoke alarm outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Install a smoke alarm inside the sleeping area of all smokers.
- Mobile homes and RV's need smoke alarms in every room and they must be installed on inside walls only.
  - NOT on ceilings or on outside walls.



# Test Smoke Alarms Monthly

Test your smoke alarms every month. If the alarm is not working, it cannot save your life. To test the First Alert smoke alarms installed by SAFEOKLAHOMA, point a TV remote control toward it. Hold down the volume or channel button for 3-5 seconds.

The First Alert smoke alarm has a long-life battery. Only change the battery if the alarm begins to chirp. A single chirp every 15 minutes means you need to replace the battery.

**First Alert**



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# Change the Smoke Alarm Every 10 Years

Smoke alarms are made to last for 10 years. After 10 years, you must install new smoke alarms. Write the date the alarm is installed on the back of the alarm.



**Be Safe...  
Replace!®**

*Replace this  
smoke alarm in*

**i**  
IONIZATION  
ALARM

**p**  
PHOTOELECTRIC  
ALARM

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Fill in replacement year.  
(10 yrs. from year of purchase)

# Know Your Smoke Alarm and Alert Equipment

- Your First Alert smoke alarm will make a sound to notify you smoke is present. The sound will be a very loud pattern of 3 beeps and a pause, 3 beeps and a pause.
- A Lifetone alert device may be installed by the bed of people with hearing loss. This is NOT a smoke alarm. It responds to the sound of the smoke alarm by making a lower loud sound and it activates the bed shaker to wake you up.

# Consider a Home Fire Sprinkler System

- Home fire sprinklers give you the best level of safety.
- A sprinkler system keeps fires small and reduces the heat, flames and smoke produced in a fire. This allows people to escape safely. For more information: 1-877-550-4372  
[www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)



# Home Fire Drills: Practice the Drill With Your Family

A home escape map is the way out of your home if you have a fire. Practice your family fire drill using the escape map. All family members should practice the fire drill every six months. Practice the fire drill including everyone who may need assistance such as young children, older adults and people with disabilities. The more you practice your fire drill, the more prepared you will be to take quick action in an emergency.

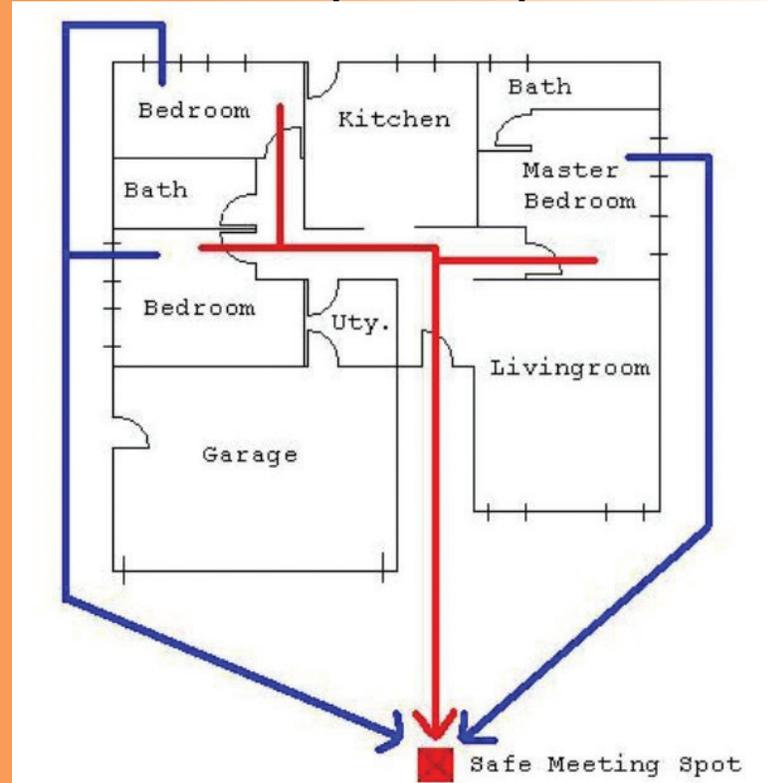


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# How Do I Make a Home Escape Map?

1. Draw a floor plan of your home on a large sheet of paper.
2. Mark every door and window that can be used to get outside.
3. Draw all outdoor items that might keep you from escaping through windows and doors.



4. Draw arrows in red to show the best way out of each room.
5. Draw arrows in blue to show the second way out of each room.
6. Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home and mark it on the escape map.
7. Write the emergency number to call the fire department on the map. In Harmon County, the emergency number is 911.
8. Assign a person to call 911 from a cell phone or be prepared to call from a neighbor's home.

# How Do I Practice A Family Fire Drill?

1. Test the smoke alarm with the TV remote control to sound the alarm and start the drill (or push the smoke alarm test button).
2. Practice the fire drill using the best way out of sleeping areas (usually down the hall and out the front door) with all family members.
3. Assist children and others who need help to get out fast.
4. Close the door when you leave.



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5. Meet outside at the family meeting place in front of your home.
6. Talk about who will call the local fire department using 911.

**REPEAT THE FIRE DRILL  
until everyone can get out quickly.**

**PRACTICE THE FIRE DRILL  
during the day and at night.**

# What Other Things Should I Do?

1. Make sure you and your children can get out fast if there is a fire. Children will need your help to wake up and get out. Plan for this.
2. Clear the way out. Keep hallways, stairs and doors clear of items that could keep you from getting out.
3. Make sure windows and doors open easily and are not blocked by furniture or other items.



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4. Make sure that your house number can be seen from the street. Mark the entrance to your property. Make sure the numbers are at least three inches tall.
5. If you live in an apartment, the landlord should ensure the apartment number is easy to see and all building numbers can be seen from a distance.
6. If you have a multi-level home, consider an escape ladder for bedrooms on the second or third floors. Make sure that the ladder fits the window.

**GET OUT AND STAY OUT!**

**Never go back into your home for any reason.  
Not for people or pets.**

**NOT FOR ANYTHING!**

**GET OUT AND STAY OUT!  
CALL 911**



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# In a Fire

Escape must be fast.

If there are closed doors between you and the exit to the outside (such as a closed bedroom door), you should feel the door-knob with the back of your hand for heat. If it is hot, do not open the door. Use your second way out.



# In a Fire

If the door does not feel hot, open it slowly. There still may be smoke and heat on the other side. If you open the door and find smoke or heat, close the door and use your second way out. If the path

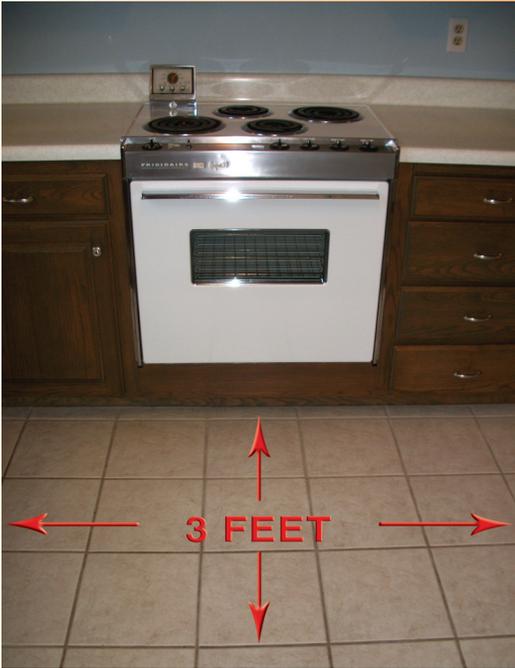


to the outside is clear of smoke, get out fast. Smoke is toxic. If there is smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.



# Reduce Home Fire Risks

## Cooking



- Cook when you are alert. Do not cook if you are drowsy from alcohol or medication.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothes when you cook. Roll up long sleeves.
- Keep children and pets away. Create a 3-foot safe zone around the cooking area.
- Turn off the stove if you must step away, even for a moment. Never leave food unattended while cooking.

# Cooking

## Stoves and Ovens

- Keep all items that can burn away from the stove. This includes paper towels, napkins, oven mitts, curtains, boxes or packages of food.
- Keep handles of pans turned in.
- Use a timer to remind you when your food is ready. As soon as the timer goes off, turn off the stove or oven.
- Keep the stove, oven and surrounding area clean of any food or grease.
- **Danger!** Never use water to put out a grease fire. Water causes the fire to spread.



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- Always keep a pan lid nearby to smother any flames.
- If a pan of food catches on fire, slide the lid on the pan to smother the fire. Turn off the burner and slide the pan off the burner. Move away from the stove.
- If a fire starts in the oven, keep the door closed, turn the oven off.
- Go outside and call the fire department, 911.



## Microwaves

- Only use microwave-safe containers.
- Never use silverware or aluminum foil in a microwave.
- If you have a fire in the microwave, keep the microwave door closed. Turn the microwave off and move away.
- Go outside and call the fire department, 911.

# Smoking

- Smoking and smoking materials are the number one cause of fatal home fires. If you smoke, you and your family are at greater risk for fire, burns and death.
- Smoke outside.
- Never smoke in bed. If a cigarette fire starts in your bed, you are too close to the fire and may not be able to escape.
- Do not smoke when drinking alcohol or taking medication that makes you drowsy.
- You must be alert to smoke safely.
- Never leave a lit cigarette. Put it out.



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- Keep lighters and matches locked away where children cannot get them.
- Only use deep ashtrays which will not tip over.
- Pour water on the cigarette butts before you put them in the trash.

**NEVER SMOKE IN AREAS WHERE  
MEDICAL OXYGEN IS BEING USED.**

# Candles

## CANDLES ARE DANGEROUS

- Use flameless candles. Flameless candles will not start a fire. They are:
  - Safe
  - Long lasting
  - Battery operated
- Candles with a real flame cause many home fires.
  - Never leave burning candles unattended.
  - Blow out candles before you leave the room or go to sleep.



Flameless candle

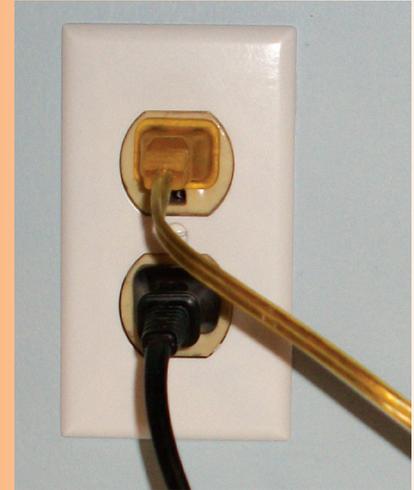
- Keep burning candles 12 inches from things that burn such as curtains, decorations, furniture or towels.
- Make sure children or pets cannot reach candles or knock them over.
- Do not use candles with a real flame in your bedroom. You may fall asleep and forget about them. Most candle fires begin in the bedroom.

**When the power is off, use a flashlight.**



# Electrical

- If you use an extension cord, make sure it has a UL label and is the right size for the electrical load.
- Do not put electrical cords or wires under rugs.
- If there are young children in your home, use plastic covers in unused outlets.
- Only plug two items into a duplex outlet.
- If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips, do not just replace or reset it. Find out what is overloading the system, and correct the problem.



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- Immediately unplug any appliances that spark, smell unusual or overheat. Replace them or have them professionally repaired.
- When an electrical appliance cord frays or cracks, replace it.
- Extension cords are for short-term use only, two weeks or less.
- Never use extension cords for major appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washers or dryers.
- Keep extension cords unrolled to reduce the amount of heat put off by the cord.

# Heating

## Portable Electric Space Heaters

- Give a space heater 3 feet of clear space in all directions. Keep clothes, bedding, furniture and walls 3 feet away from all sides of a space heater.
- Turn off space heaters when leaving the room.
- Turn off a space heater when you go to bed.
- Portable space heaters with an automatic shutoff are safer. If they tip over, they will shut off.

**Space heaters are a major cause  
of home fires.**



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## Gas-Fueled Space Heaters

- Give a space heater 3 feet of clear space in all directions. Keep clothes, bedding, furniture and walls 3 feet away from all sides of a space heater.
- Always use the fuel specified by the manufacturer. THIS IS NEVER GASOLINE.
- When refueling, allow the heater to cool and refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- Open a window to ensure proper ventilation when using the heater.
- Make sure your heater has an oxygen depletion sensor. If it does not, replace it with one that does.

# Heating

## Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the fireplace or stove.
- Use only old, dry wood in your fireplace or stove.
- Start the fire with newspaper or kindling, never with a flammable liquid such as lighter fluid, kerosene or gasoline.
- Always use a fire screen.
- Inspect your chimney for cracks or obstructions every year before winter.
- Clean and inspect fireplaces, wood burning stoves, chimneys and flues annually.



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# Wildland Fire: Protect Your Home

- Create a 30 to 100 foot “fire break” or “safety zone” all the way around your home by keeping debris, vegetation and wood piles away from exterior walls.
- Use fire-resistant materials to construct fences, decks and sheds. Metal fencing, metal siding, brick or stone construction materials are fire-resistant.
- Remove dead tree branches and any branches that overhang the roof of any building.
- Prune tree limbs so they are at least 6 feet off the ground.

# Wildland Fire: Protect Your Home

- Remove cedar trees. They are a serious fire risk.
- Clear leaf clutter from the roof and gutters.
- Remove tall, dry grasses. Keep the lawn cut low and clear of leaf debris.
- Cover home soffit vents with 1/8 inch metal screen. This keeps sparks from burning into the attic.
- Enclose under decks and porches with 1/8 inch metal screen. The screen acts as a spark arrester and can keep fire from spreading under these areas.
- Visit [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org) for more information.



# Outdoor Burning

## Burning Household Trash

Before you begin:

- Contact Hollis Fire Department 580-688-9216. This call will let you know if a burn ban is in effect and will confirm that weather conditions are safe for outdoor burning.
- Windy or dry conditions are not safe for outdoor burning in Oklahoma.
- Check the internet for burn ban information at: <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information>.



# Outdoor Burning

## Burning Household Trash

- Only burn sorted household trash according to local regulations.
- It is best to burn trash in a metal barrel in good condition (no rust on the sides).
- Cover the barrel with a spark arrester of metal mesh screen that is 1/8 inch or finer.
- Clear at least a 10 foot area around the burn barrel or any burn site.



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## Burn Safely

- Never leave a fire.
- Keep children and pets away from the fire.
- Keep a water supply and shovel nearby.
- Be prepared to extinguish the fire immediately if the wind picks up.
- To ensure the fire is extinguished, drown the fire with water, turn over the ashes with a shovel, and drown it again.
- Ashes must be cool, not hot.

# Outdoor Burning

## Never Burn Plastics

- Medicine bottles
- Trash bags
- Toys
- Feed sacks
- Oil jugs
- Shipping and mailing materials
- Styrofoam™
- Plastic bags and wrap
- Empty detergent bottles
- Hay twine and wrap
- Foam take-home food containers



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Sort all trash. Do not burn:

- Glass, aluminum and other metals.
- Pressurized containers such as deodorant, household cleaners, or insect repellent. These will explode if heated.
- Plastics, construction materials (such as treated lumber), or tires.

**Burning plastic releases dioxins into the air.  
Dioxins cause cancer.**



# Outdoor Burning

## Burning Agricultural Waste

### Preparing to Burn

- Call the Hollis Fire Department before you burn (580)688-9216.
- Follow all Oklahoma outdoor burning regulations including any burn bans.
- Continue to check weather conditions including wind speed and humidity.
- Choose a safe burn site.
- Do not burn under power lines, overhanging limbs or anything else overhead.



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## Safety and Control are Key

- Allow at least 50 feet of space from any structure.
- Stay away from fences, vehicles and equipment.  
Establish a minimum 10 foot wide clearance, or fire break, surrounding any burn piles.
- Keep burn piles small. Add to them slowly as waste burns.
- Keep water and a shovel nearby.
- Stay until the pile is completely burned and the fire is out. Drown ashes with water to ensure the fire is completely out.

# Outdoor Agricultural Burning

Agricultural burning is the practice of using fire to reduce or dispose of plant debris from farming and ranching. Some practices include:

- Burning large areas of crop residue after harvest to reduce excess plant material, to control crop diseases, weeds or pests, or to maintain crop yields.
- Disposing of piles of agricultural debris, such as orchard trees, limbs, or haystacks; and clearing vegetation out of irrigation ditches and canals.



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- If you use an open burn site, keep burn piles small and slowly add to them to control the fire.
- Safety and control are the most important issues to remember in prescribed burning.
- Additional information is available from your local fire department and also at: [www.oklahomaprescribedfirecouncil.okstate.edu](http://www.oklahomaprescribedfirecouncil.okstate.edu)

**Call Hollis Fire Department  
before you burn.  
580-688-9216**



# Using Gasoline



- Gasoline is flammable. Gasoline constantly gives off flammable vapors that are heavier than air and settle at the lowest level.
- Keep gasoline away from potential heat sources such as cigarette smoking, hot water heater, space heater or furnace.
- Keep gasoline at least 50 feet away from ignition sources such as pilot lights or a burning trash pile.

- Store gasoline outside the home—in a storage or lawn shed—in a tightly closed metal or plastic container approved and marked for gasoline storage.
- Let engines cool before refueling.
- Never use gasoline in place of kerosene.



# Using Propane

- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately and call the fire department, 911, from outside the home.
- If a pilot light repeatedly goes out or is difficult to light, there may be a safety problem. Shut off the gas to the appliance. Do not try to fix the problem yourself. Call a professional.
- Refill propane tanks when the fuel level reaches 20%. Running out of gas is a serious safety hazard.
- If you run out of gas, turn off the gas connector to your house and at each appliance.



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- If your propane tank runs out of gas, your pilot lights will go out. This can be extremely dangerous when the gas is back on.
- Before refilling your propane tank, make sure gas is turned off to all appliances. Follow manufacturers instructions for refilling.
- Follow manufacturers instructions and warnings if you light your pilot lights. It is best to have a propane retailer or service technician light any pilot light that has gone out.
- Propane burns with a blue flame in a properly operating appliance. A yellow flame or soot buildup may mean the gas is not burning completely and it could be creating dangerous carbon monoxide gas. Turn gas connector off at the appliance and call a service technician to fix the problem.

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## SAFEOKLAHOMA Partners include:

Hollis Fire Department

Harmon County Health Department

Oklahoma Fire Chiefs Association

Oklahoma State Fire Marshal

Fire Protection Publications/OSU

Oklahoma State Firefighters Association

Oklahoma State Retired Firefighters Association

Injury Prevention Service

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Oklahoma ABLE Tech/OSU



# REMEMBER!

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- You and your family can be fire safe at home.
- Install smoke alarms. Test them every month.
- Practice your family fire drill every six months.
- Reduce home fire risks.



Hollis Fire Department  
580-688-9216

## Contact Information:

City of Hollis 580-688-9245  
Harmon County Health Department  
580-688-3348



Fire Protection Publications  
SmokeAlarm@osufpp.org 405-744-5723