

Manufactured/ Mobile Home Safety

Fires that occur in manufactured and mobile homes each year kill 345 people and injure another 765 people throughout the United States (according to the USFA). One of the leading causes of fires in manufactured and mobile homes is from failing heat tape. Heat tape is used to keep water pipes from freezing in the winter months. This is an all too common problem in Massachusetts when almost all winter days are below freezing. Visit www.cpsc.gov for more information on heating tape as well as safety tips.

Dangers that arise in Mobile and Manufactured Homes

Another fire problem in manufactured and mobile homes is the faulty use of both improperly installed electric equipment as well as overloaded extension cords can cause fires. Another fire problem in mobile homes in the winter months is heating. Make sure they are well maintained and used. When using a space heater, make sure it is at least three feet away from anything that it can catch on fire, including you. Make sure your mobile or manufactured home is clear of brush, cut down any brush that comes close or touches your house. Do not allow trash and debris to go under your home, make sure the bottom of your home is gated off.

Fire Safety Tips for Your Home

- Make sure that you have working smoke detectors in your home. Check them monthly and replace the batteries twice a year.
- Make sure that all hallways are clear in case you need to escape.
- Create a family escape plan. Have two ways out of every room and once you are out of the house, stay out and call 911. Hold a fire drill to practice the plan.
- Stand By Your Pan! Never leave boiling, frying or broiling food unattended.
- Never have an open flame or smoke when on home oxygen.
- Go outside to smoke. Use a deep ashtray on a sturdy surface. Never smoke in bed or when tired.
- Since moisture can lead to a fire, keep the end-cap of your heat tape sealed and off the ground to prevent water from getting into the cap
- Inspect heat tapes each year, replacing them if they show signs of deterioration. Look for discolored surfaces (especially at the plug), charring, cuts, or breaks in the insulation, or bare wires.

Try these links for more information on mobile and manufactured home safety

United States Fire Administration website on manufactured home safety-

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/manufactured/

The Carver Fire Department's PowerPoint on mobile home safety-

http://www.carverfire.org/firesafety/mobile_home_fire_safety_files/frame.htm