



Smoking Fire Safety



Most smoking deaths, fires, and injuries happen at home – the place where we feel safest. The improper use and disposal of smoking materials is the leading cause of fire deaths in Massachusetts and the nation. Smoking fires can smolder undetected for a long time before bursting into flames on a bed, sofa or chair, or in a pile of mulch or a potted plant. Be a responsible smoker. Learn to smoke and dispose of smoking materials safely. Put it out. All the way. Every time.

Smoking Safety

- If you smoke, smoke outside. Many deaths result from fires that start in living rooms, family rooms or bedrooms.
- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials out of the reach of children, in a high, locked cabinet.

Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.

- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Keep it away from anything that can burn.
- Never toss cigarette butts from porches or windows, and never discard cigarettes in mulch, leaves, vegetation, or potted plants.
- Smoldering outdoor fires can ignite the exterior of a house and spread rapidly. A smoke alarm inside the house won't alert you to a fire on the outside.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are completely out. Dousing in water or sand is the best way to make sure they are out. Use heavy metal cans filled with sand for disposal.

Porch Fire Safety

Porch fires are a major cause of fast moving fires that can threaten densely built neighborhoods. Porch fires can burn for a long time undetected by occupants or interior smoke alarms. These fires can quickly spread to multiple structures.

Smoking and Medical Oxygen

- Never smoke where medical oxygen is used.
- Do not allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used.
- Medical oxygen makes things ignite very easily and makes an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

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FireFactors

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Electronic cigarettes

- E-cigarettes can cause fires while in use, during battery charging, or when they are moved. Battery failures can cause small explosions.
- Never leave charging e-cigarettes unattended.
- Use e-cigarettes with caution.

Smoking Fire Facts

- The risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age.
- One out of four fatal victims of smoking-material fires is not the smoker.

Tools for Fire Educators

DFS has radio and television public service announcements (PSAs) on the proper (and improper) disposal of smoking materials. They use humor to communicate the messages. Fire educators can use these PSAs on social media, in presentations to community groups, and on local cable television. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *smoking fire safety*. You can view and download the PSAs and find many more resources to use in smoking fire safety education. The United State Fire Administration (USFA) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) also have many smoking fire safety resources.

