

Nighttime Safety Check

Most fatal fires occur during the night when people are sleeping.
Stay safe when you are asleep!

- Switch off all appliances, especially those that generate heat.
- Check that the oven, stove, and grill are not left on.
- Turn off all gas heaters, electric heaters, and space heaters.
- Open fires in fireplaces should be out before going to bed. Use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying. Clear the area around the fireplace of newspapers, kindling, and flammable materials. Do not keep a rug or exposed wood floor in front of a fireplace.
- Check that candles are out. Never leave one burning when you go to sleep.
- Make sure that any cigarettes, cigars, and pipes have been put out properly, and never smoke in bed. You could fall asleep and accidentally set fire to your bedding.
- Check furniture cushions to make sure that a cigarette hasn't rolled down in them and is smoldering. And don't forget any furniture you may have on the porch. Many fatal fires have started in the middle of the night this way.
- Empty the trash before going to bed, particularly after a party. Put it in a trash can away from the house in case someone threw a smoldering cigarette butt into the trash and it breaks out into a fire during the night.
- Close all doors, especially the one to your bedroom. By shutting doors you can delay smoke and fire from entering your room, allowing more time to escape. You would be amazed at how much difference a closed door can make – it can save your life.
- Check that your escape route is clear of obstacles and make sure doors and windows can be opened if necessary.