

## SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke is responsible for three out of four deaths.

- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. Test them once a month.
- Keep smoke detectors dust free. Replace batteries every year.
- Inexpensive smoke detectors are available for the hearing impaired.

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The best bet if you're on the spot when a fire begins.

- Purchase ABC type extinguishers for all types of fires. They should be mounted in kitchen, garage and workshop.
- Learn how to use your extinguisher before there is an emergency.
- Use an extinguisher on small fires only. If there is a large fire, get out immediately and call 911 from another location.

## THINKING AHEAD: Your Exit Plan

As with other things, the best motto is "Be Prepared."

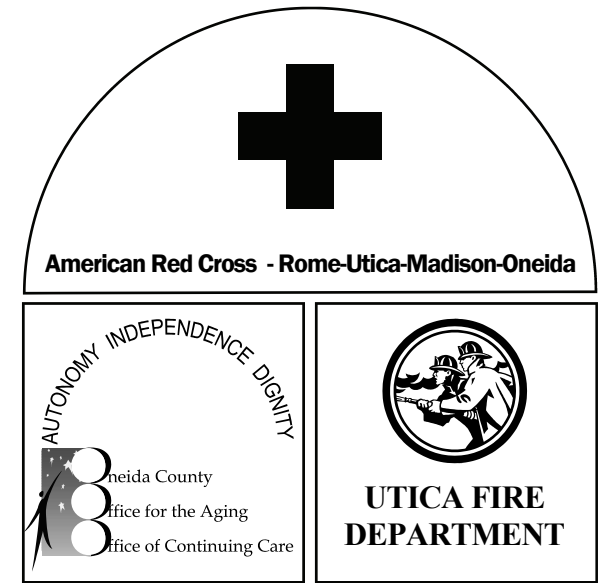
- Prepare a floor plan showing at least two ways out of each room.
- Sleep with bedroom door closed. In the event of a fire, if the door feels hot escape through another door or window.
- Window escape ladders are available, e.g. First Alert sells one for \$90.
- Agree on an outdoor location where you can gather for a head count.
- Check that corridors and stairways are free of obstructions and combustibles. Clear unnecessary items from attic, basement and garage.

## IF YOU USE AN OXYGEN TANK

Notify the Fire Department. It will be registered on their database.

## THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Should be located on the first floor whenever possible – notify Fire Department of frail/blind person's location.



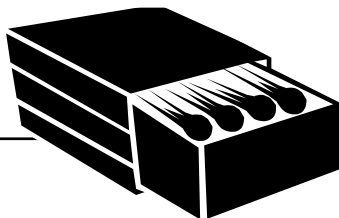
# Fire Safety for Seniors...



## FIRE RISKS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Older adults represent one of the highest fire risk populations in the United States, presenting unique challenges in the fields of fire protection, prevention and safety. The complications associated with aging increase the likelihood that an elderly person will accidentally start a fire and at the same time reduce his or her chances of surviving it.

As the nation's elderly population grows, the fire death toll will likely rise in direct proportion to that growth unless measures are taken to lessen the risks associated with this group. Fire safety groups and the community as a whole must address the fire safety needs of older adults or be faced with the potential for a severe public health problem.



## FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS

Protect yourself, prevention is the best way to keep yourself and your home safe from fire.

- Be kitchen wise: Never leave cooking unattended. Wear clothes with tight fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep stove surfaces free of clutter and built-up grease.
- Be smoker wary: Use large, deep non-tipping ashtrays. Never smoke in bed, while drinking alcohol or while you are on medication that could make you drowsy or disoriented.
- Give space heaters space: Keep electric portable space heaters at least three feet from everything – including you! Just brushing against one could set your clothing on fire.
- Install smoke detectors: Be sure to have smoke detectors outside all sleeping areas and on every level of your home, including the basement. Test your detectors monthly, and change the batteries when you change your clocks.

*In 2000, according to the National Fire Prevention Association, 3,420 Americans were killed and another 16,975 were injured as a result of fire. Direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$5.5 billion. Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.*