

While we all know about the health effects of smoking, smokers' carelessness is the cause of many fire-related injuries and fatalities.



Cigarettes and Fire

Studies show that many fires caused by cigarettes are not the result of simple carelessness, but of smokers who are impaired by alcohol, fatigue, or drugs – either illegal or prescription. Unlike pipes and cigars, commercially produced cigarettes are designed to continue burning ... regardless of whether they've been dropped onto furniture or if a smoker has fallen asleep. When children live with smokers, there is an increased risk of child-set fires because of the availability of matches and lighters.

SAFETY TIPS

- Always discard smoldering and spent cigarettes properly. Select ashtrays that reduce the chances of a burning cigarette falling onto carpeting and upholstery.
- 2. Check wastebaskets and cushions in rooms where people have been smoking. Look for cigarette embers that are still burning.
- 3. Smoking and drinking can be as deadly as drinking and driving. If you host a party and allow smoking, check under chair and sofa cushions before going to bed. Get in the habit of watching out for unattended, but smoldering cigarettes.
- 4. Never smoke in bed or anywhere when drowsy. Cigarettes can smolder longer than most bedding materials and upholstery can resist igniting.
- 5. Keep matches and lighters, especially novelty lighters, out of the reach of children. Even a toddler can operate a lighter. Child resistant lighters are not child-proof.

HOME FIRE SAFETY IS UP TO YOU!

A Message from the Oregon Life Safety Team: A Coalition of Fire Service, Community and Insurance Professionals