

CBS Corporate Safety and Environmental Affairs

CBS Corporation, 20 Stanwix Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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Fire Safety and Prevention

October is National Fire Prevention Month. While much attention is focused on fire safety and prevention during that time, fire safety should be practiced throughout the year.

Fire safety is just as important at home as in the workplace. A residential fire occurs every 78 seconds, causing over 3,000 fatalities per year. Fires and explosions account for approximately 3% of workplace fatalities according to a report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The National Fire Protection Agency reports that 60% of home fire deaths result from fires in homes without properly working smoke alarms. Fatalities in a house fire are cut in half in homes with smoke alarms. Listed below are some fire safety and prevention tips for your home:

- Have properly working smoke alarms on each floor of your home.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Plan and practice a family escape route. Teach everyone the “stop, drop, and roll” technique in case clothing catches on fire.
- Place fire extinguishers throughout your home and make sure everyone knows how to use them.

In the workplace, fire hazards include improperly stored chemicals and the use of paint or other flammable products in poorly ventilated areas. Poor housekeeping, such as trash, oily rags, and combustible materials left on the floor instead of being disposed of properly, is one of the most common causes of fires in the workplace. The following are basic safety conditions for every workplace:

- Know the fire escape route for your location. Each building must have two means of emergency escape.
- Fire drills should be held annually. Participating in the drill helps to ensure that employees can act quickly and properly in the event of a real emergency.
- Fire doors must not be blocked or locked when employees are in the building.
- Exit routes must be clear, free of obstructions, and properly marked with signs designating exits from the building.
- Only approved fire extinguishers are permitted. They must be kept in good operating condition and should be used only by employees trained to do so.
- Emergency action plans are required. Plans must describe the routes to use and procedures employees must follow.

Additional Fire Safety Resources

With the end of Daylight Savings Time in the next few days, now is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Additional information on fire safety and prevention is available from the [National Safety Council](#) and the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#).

Please contact Mark.Perriello@cbs.com with any questions or for additional information.