About 3,500 Americans die each year in fires and about 20,000 are injured. You can stop the fire before it starts. Use this fact sheet to learn how to prevent a fire in your home and know what to do if you have a fire.

Stop a cooking fire before it starts:
- Keep towels, pot holders, and curtains away from flames, ovens, and stove tops.
- Never use the stove or oven to heat your home.
- Never leave food that is cooking on the stove alone. A serious fire can start in just seconds.
- Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house. Make sure all appliances are turned off.
- Make sure you turn off the stove or oven when you are finished using it.
- Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup, which can start fires.
- Make sure you turn off the stove or oven when you are finished using it.

Avoid cooking injuries:
- Always wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking, because the sleeves may catch on fire and burn you.
- Heat cooking oil slowly to avoid burns from spattering grease. Be extra careful when cooking deep-fried food, because the hot grease can burn you.

Be prepared for a fire:
- If you are cooking and a fire starts, turn off the stove or burner and put a lid on the pan to stop it. Never throw water on a grease fire.
- One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a “Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm.” A smoke alarm greatly reduces your chances of dying in a fire.
- Prepare an escape plan and practice it often. Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two (2) escape routes from their bedrooms.