

Fire Safety for Older Adults

Fire kills approximately 1,100 people ages 65 and older each year.

People between ages 65 and 74 are TWICE as likely to die in a home fire.

People between ages 75 and 84 are nearly FOUR times as likely to die in a home fire.

People ages 85 and older are more than FIVE times as likely to die in a home fire.

You can do something about it...

Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths among people ages 65 and older, and the second leading cause of fire injuries among people ages 65 and older.

Heating safely

Heating is the second leading cause of fire death for people ages 65 and older.

Fires caused by heating are the third leading cause of fire injury for people ages 65 and older.

Space heaters need space. Keep heaters at least three feet away from your bed, curtains, and flammable materials.

When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.

Cooking is the leading cause of fire injuries for people ages 65 and older.

Never leave cooking unattended. A serious fire can start in just seconds.

Always wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cook. Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away from flames.

Never use the range or oven to heat your home.

Double-check the kitchen before you go to bed or leave the house.

The number of home fires started by candles has doubled in the past ten years.

Although lit candles look pretty, they can be dangerous if used or placed improperly.

A candle flame can easily ignite any nearby combustibles. Keep all flammable materials, such as papers, magazines, towels, bedding, curtains, drapes and clothing away from lit candles.

Place candles in holders that are made of a material that can't burn, and won't tip over. Place out of way of children and pets.

During a power outage, flashlights are much safer than candles.

You can't see or smell "CO", but it can be deadly.

If fuel-burning appliances (fireplaces, wood stoves, gas stoves and furnaces, etc.) aren't working properly, the CO emitted can reach dangerous levels.

Many of the symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu: headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness.

Test batteries monthly and change them at least once a year.

General fire safety tips

Develop and practice a fire escape plan regularly, at least twice a year.

Know at least two exits from every room.

If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure you get through the doorways

Don't let a fire be your fault!

For more fire prevention information,
please contact:

The Woodbridge fire prevention bureau
732-602-6040