



FIRE SAFETY

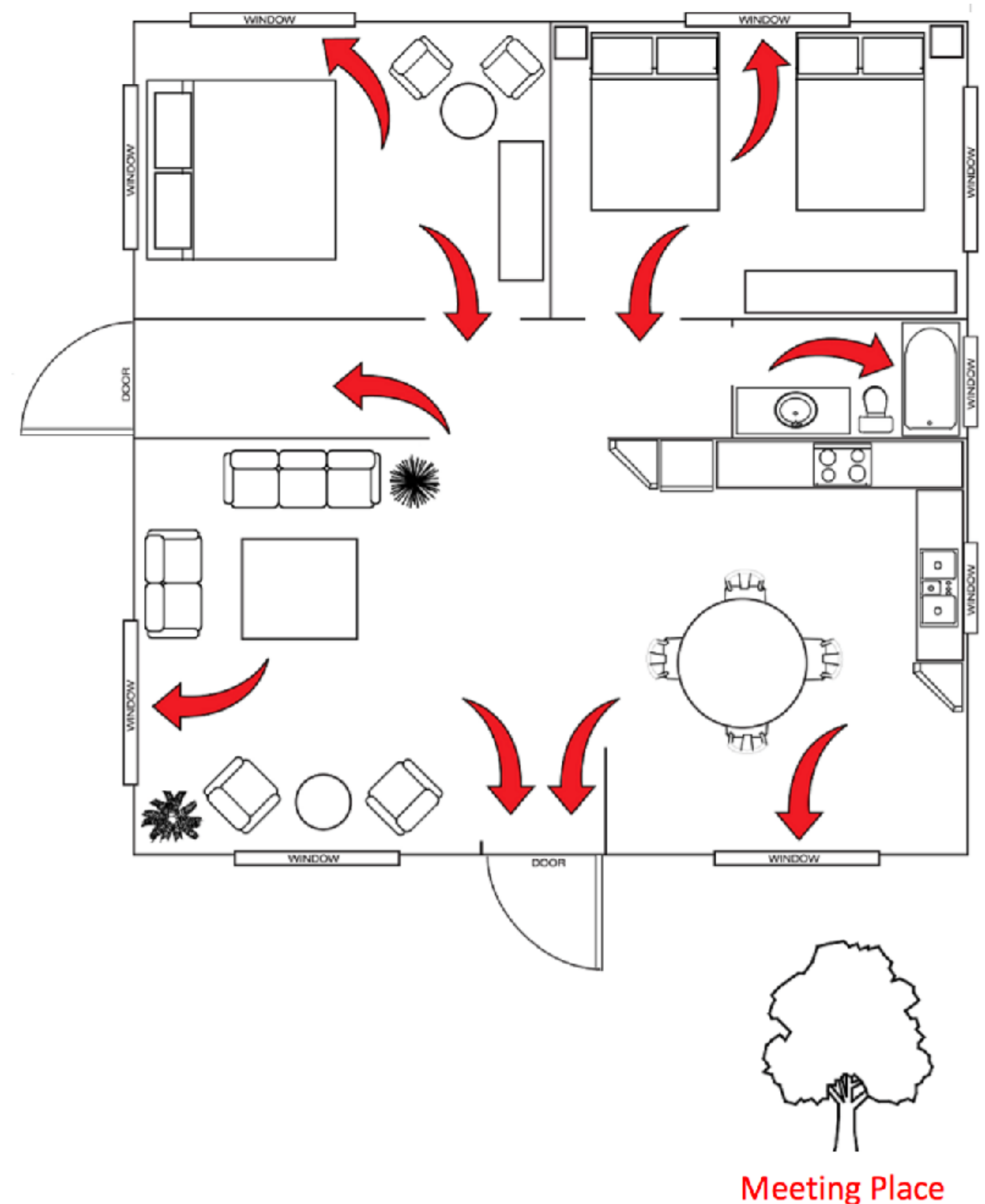
Let's Make a Plan

Make (**AND PRACTICE!**) a safety plan with your entire household.

- + **TWO ways out of every room.**
- + 2nd story: collapsible ladders in every bedroom (accessible!)
- + Make sure windows aren't painted shut, screens or storm windows can be taken out, security bars removed.
- + Make sure everyone in the house knows how to open windows and find/operate ladders.
- + Know and practice how to get out in the dark.
- + Keep exits clear of toys, boxes, debris.
- + Teach children not to hide during fires: “**get out and stay out**”
- + Designate a family meeting place outside the house.
- + Plan for everyone in your house: children, elderly, special needs (designate who's helping whom)

PRACTICE YOUR PLAN TWICE EACH YEAR!

Download: [FIRE ESCAPE PLAN](#)



Early Detection Is Key

Install and maintain smoke detectors.

- + **Inside and outside of all bedrooms and sleeping areas**
- + **On every level of the home, including the basement**
- + Ideally combo ionization (“fast flame” fires) and photoelectric (smoldering fires) detectors
- + You need CO detection as well
- + Place detectors on ceiling or high wall
- + Interconnected AND monitoring service, if possible
- + **Change batteries 2x/year - Daylight Savings**
- + **Replace detectors after 10 years**

Consider children and hard-of-hearing members of the household. Can they hear the detector? Do they know what it sounds like, and what to do?

Sources: <http://www.nfpa.org/>



Smoke alarms cut your chances
of dying in a house fire
by over 50%.

Closed Door Policy

SLEEP WITH YOUR BEDROOM DOORS CLOSED!

+ **Up to 80% of fire deaths are caused by smoke inhalation**

A closed door is your best ally, buying you and your loved ones critical time to get out.

Sources: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/28/nyregion/a-closed-door-the-best-ally-in-a-home-fire.html>



In Case of Fire...

- + **Stay low to the ground**
- + Feel the door with the back of your hand, starting at bottom.
- + If the door is hot, or smoke is seeping in, **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR.**
- + If fire is confirmed, yell **“FIRE!”** to alert the household
- + If the door is cool, peek out the door, ready to close it. Stay low!
- + Close door if **any** fire or a lot of smoke.
- + If you have water, wet a shirt or pillowcase and cover your mouth and nose to help filter smoke
- + If you leave the bedroom, close the door behind you (in case you need to retreat—keep that room smoke-free.)
- + If you’re trapped, use towels, clothing, newspapers, duct tape to seal off bedroom door.
- + Open window and escape, if possible.
- + If escape is not possible, wave or hang light cloth/sheet/towel to alert responders of your presence.
- + Stay by window and breathe fresh air, if possible.



Dial 911... AFTER You Escape

Do not delay your escape to call 911. Wait until you're at the designated meeting place. Let the 911 dispatchers know if all residents are accounted for.

If trapped with no means of escape, call 911 immediately and let them know where in the house you are.

Parents: Do your kids know how to dial 911 on your cellphone? Do they know your home street address?



Fire Extinguishers

Keep multi-purpose (ABC) fire extinguishers on every floor of your house, and one in or near your kitchen AND garage. Make sure the kitchen extinguisher is rated for flammable liquids (the “B” in ABC).

Use fire extinguishers: for small, contained fires. Get everyone out of the house. Fire department should be called simultaneously, ideally—or ASAP. Keep your back to a clear exit.

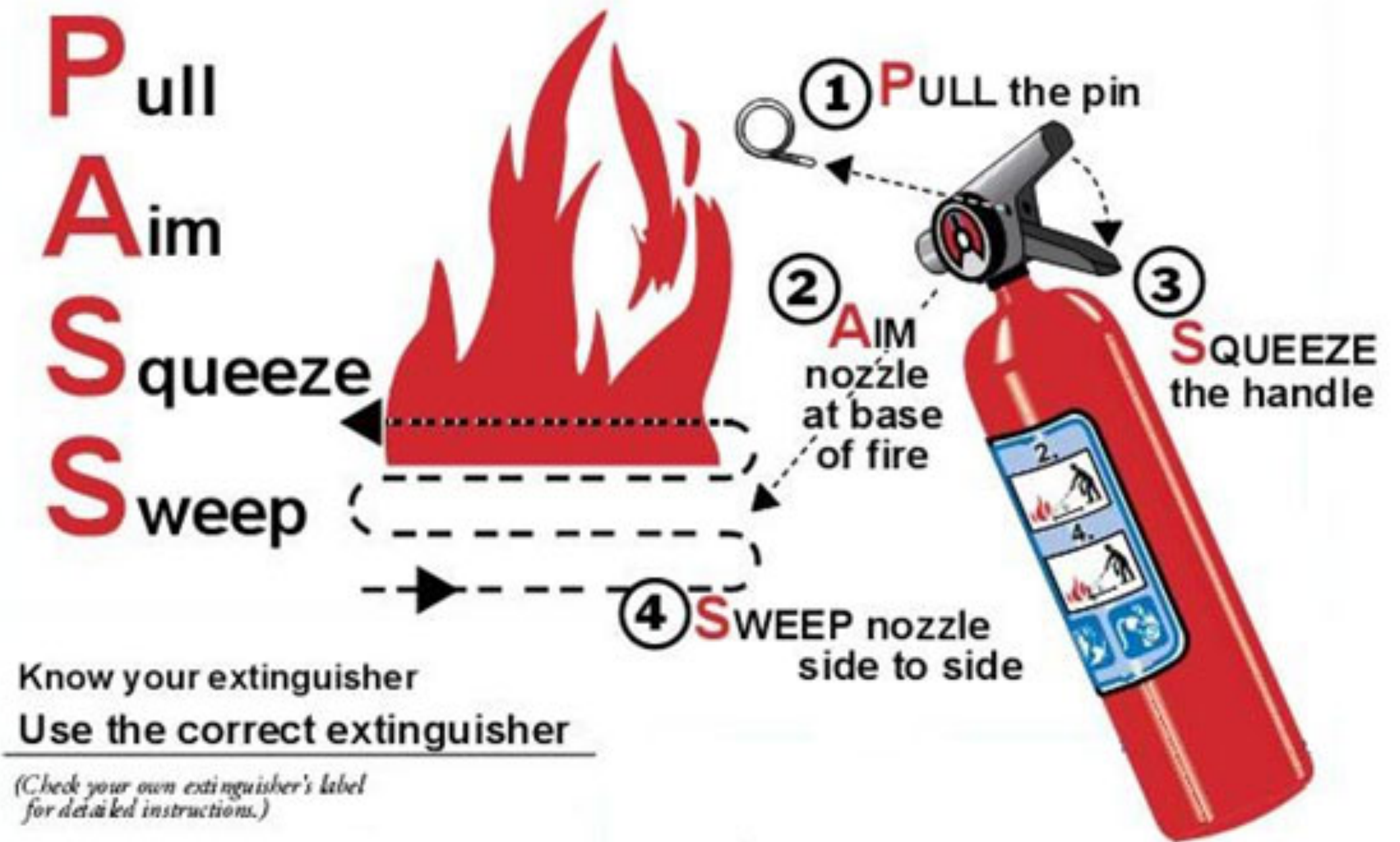
If the fire grows or spreads, or the room fills with smoke, get out of the house immediately.

Check gauge monthly, and the unit for corrosion, damage, etc.

Replace after 12 years.

Know how to use your extinguisher BEFORE there’s a fire.

To operate an extinguisher:



VIEW: [Fire Extinguisher Safety Information](#)

Interested in a fire extinguisher training day?

We will be hosting one at RCFD in the spring.

Identifying Hazards

Cooking

Cooking is the #1 cause of home structure fires (nearly 50%) and the leading cause of fire injuries.

- + **Unattended cooking** is by far the leading factor
- + Clothing igniting is <1% of the cause, but 18% of the deaths
- + 54% of fire injuries are from people fighting fire themselves
- + Ranges/stovetops account for over 60% of cooking fire incidents
- + Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- + Frying poses the greatest risk for fire.

Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, broiling, boiling.

Stay nearby while baking, simmering, roasting—ideally in kitchen.

Use a timer, and check food regularly.

Be alert when cooking—watch alcohol consumption.

Keep things that can catch fire away from the cooking area.

No loose-fitting clothing.



Smoking

Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths.

- + If you smoke, smoke outside
- + Most smoking deaths are in living room, family room or bedroom
- + Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Keep away from anything that can burn.
- + Use caution when sleepy, using alcohol, or taking medications
- + Do not throw out cigarettes outside into vegetation, potted plants, etc.
- + Never smoke where medical oxygen is used.

Also: PLEASE STOP SMOKING, for every other reason.



Candles

Roughly 1/3 of home candle fires start in the bedroom.

- + Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- + Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep
- + Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn
- + Consider using flameless candles
- + Make sure candle holders are sturdy and won't tip
- + Don't burn candles all the way down
- + Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home
- + Have flashlights handy for outages—never use candles

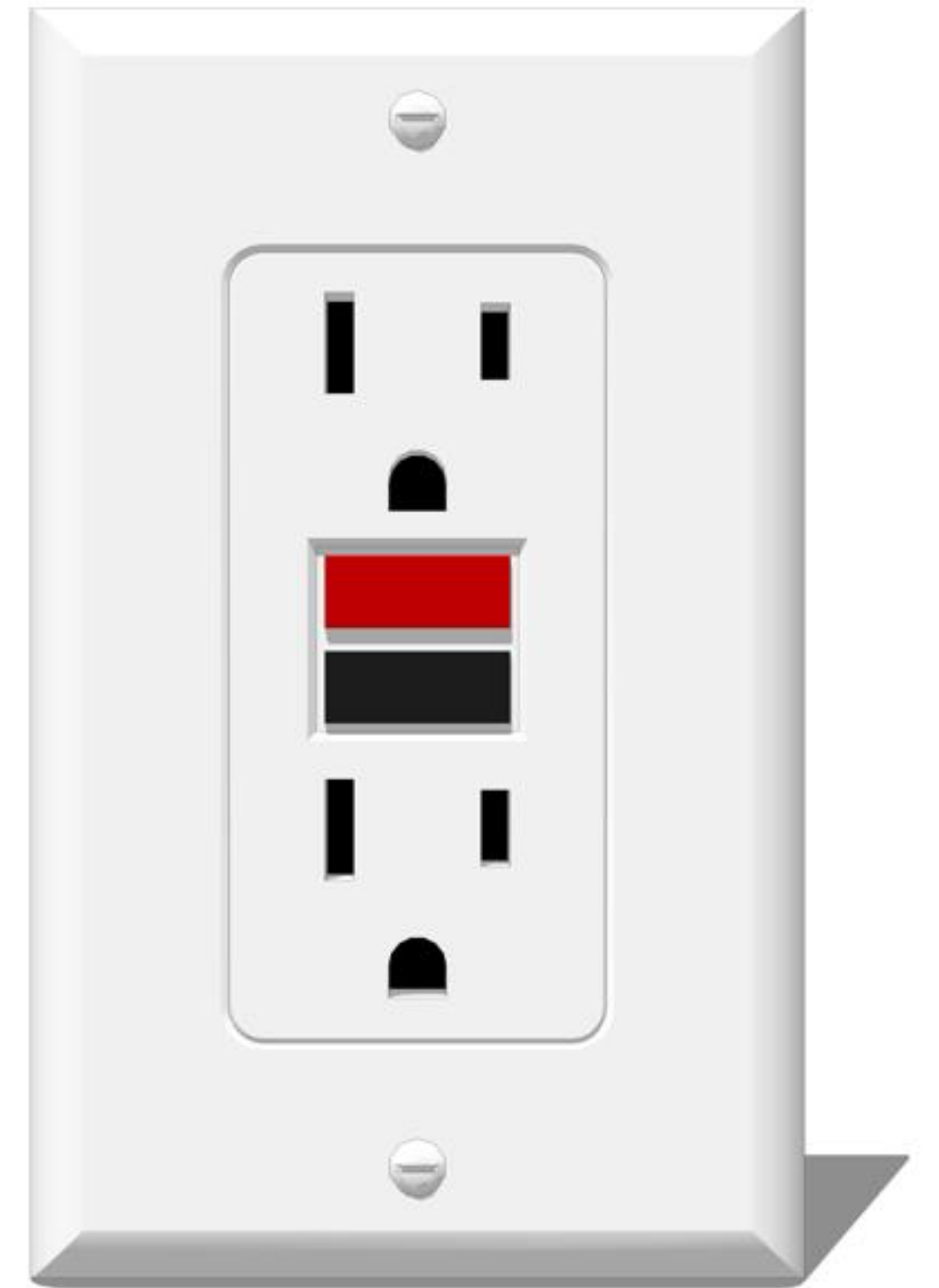
December is the peak time of year for candle fires.

Sources: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/causes/candles/candle-safety-tips>



Electrical Hazards

- + Replace/repair damaged/loose electrical cords
- + Ensure appliances are plugged into manufacturer-approved outlets
- + Avoid running extension cords under carpets
- + Extension cords are **temporary—not permanent solutions**
- + Tamper-resistant outlets in homes with kids
- + If outlets or switches feel warm, call an electrician
- + Don't overload outlets
- + GFCIs (ground fault circuit interrupters) in kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, basement, and outdoors



Heating

Space heaters cause 1/3 of home heating fires and 81% of heating fire deaths.

- + Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heating equipment
- + Turn off heaters/extinguish fires when you leave the room or go to bed
- + Make sure fireplace has a sturdy screen
- + Make sure ashes are cool, and keep in sturdy container away from home

Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected ever year



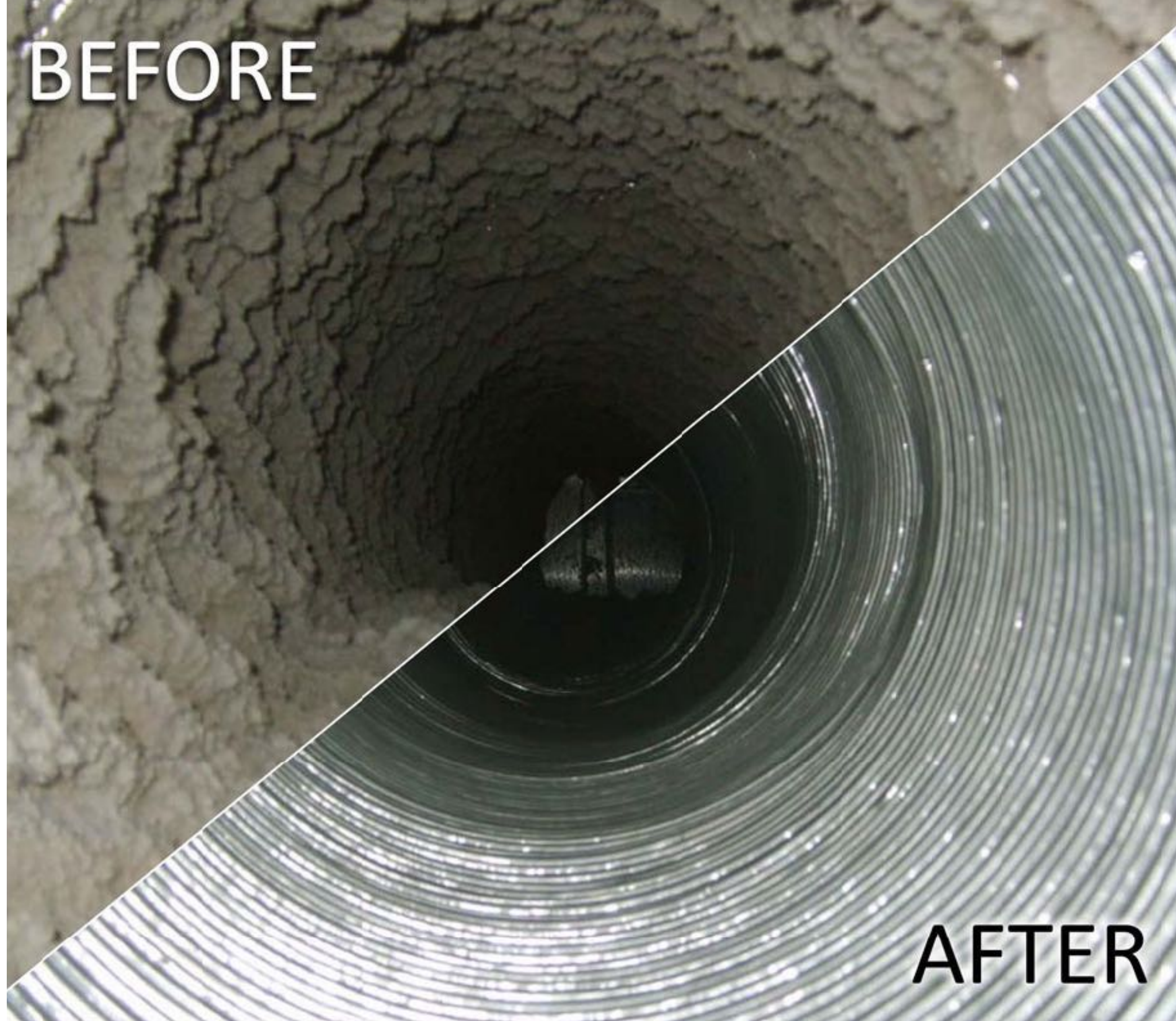
Dryers

Keep your dryer clean and maintained.

- + Do not use without a lint filter
- + Clean the lint filter before or after every load
- + Clean out dryer vents once a year
- + Make sure right plug and outlet is used
- + Don't overload the dryer
- + **Don't run the dryer at night**

Dryer fires spike during winter months, due to heavier clothing and blankets producing more lint.

Sources: <http://www.nfpa.org/>, <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/>



**Keep your exhaust
vent pipe clean**

Christmas Trees

Christmas tree fires are 8x deadlier than other home fires.

- + Keep trees well watered
- + Trees should be a **minimum of 3 feet** from heat sources
- + Don't place a tree blocking an exit
- + Make sure lights/cords are in proper condition
- + Turn off lights before going to bed
- + Check the tree's needles: get rid of tree when needles are dry.

Trees put up during Thanksgiving should come down before New Year's.



Can We Find You?

**Make sure we can see your house number from the street—
IMMEDIATELY, night or day.**

- + Big, thick, wide numbers are better.
- + Should be at least 5” tall on house, 3.5” tall on mailbox
- + Contrasting background, reflective coating
- + Brass or bronze look great, but are not recommended
- + If you have a long driveway, make sure the number is visible at the street, coming both ways
- + Keep bushes/trees around house numbers pruned
- + Numbers should be on or beside front door, or on fence, tree or mailbox at the end of the driveway (both sides!)

Side note: Are there any issues accessing your property? Narrow roads? Narrow gate entrances? Narrow Victorian windows? Anything we should know about in advance? Let us know!



Visitors to Your House

- + Do houseguests and/or babysitters know where your fire extinguishers and escape ladders are?
- + Do they know the escape plan?



Resources/Links

National Safety Council - Fire Safety

Fire Safety - 7 Life-Saving Preventive Measures

Ready.Gov - Home Fires

