



Just the Facts

- The Iowa Great Lakes Chapter responds to 10-12 residential home fires each year. All assistance given is free to the client with monies coming from donations from our committed donors, community agencies and business partners.
- The American Red Cross responded to more than 74,000 disasters in communities across the United States last year and 93 percent of these were fire related. The American Red Cross is responding to 10 percent more home fires today than it was six years ago. Eighty percent of Americans don't realize that home fires are the single most common disaster across the nation.
- Nationally, the number of home fires is on the rise with the number of fires increasing 8 percent since 2000. The average cost of a home fire in 2006 was more than \$17,000.
- Only 26 percent of families have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
Children under 5 and adults over 65 are more than twice as likely to die in a home fire than the rest of the US population.
Fire kills more Americans each year than all natural disasters combined, and affect people from all backgrounds and geographic locations.
- Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. And, two out of three cooking fires start with the range or stove.
Heating fires are the second leading cause of home fires.
Smoke is the leading cause of home fire deaths.
- In 2005, 74 percent of home fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
Sprinklers and smoke alarms together cut your risk of dying in a home fire 82% in relation to having neither.
- Each year over 200 people die from carbon monoxide produced by fuel burning appliances in the home including furnaces, ranges, water heaters and room heaters.

In case of fire...

Follow Your Escape Plan!

Remember to **GET OUT, STAY OUT** and **CALL 9-1-1** or your local emergency phone number.

- If closed doors or handles are warm, use your second way out. Never open doors that are warm to the touch.
- Crawl low under smoke.
- Go to your outside meeting place and then call for help.
- If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with doors closed. Place a wet towel under the door and call the fire department or 9-1-1. Open a window and wave a brightly colored cloth or flashlight to signal for help.

Be Red Cross Ready
Download Fire Safety Checklist