

Fire Prevention and Safety Tips

Every year, hundreds of thousands of homes are damaged or destroyed by fire resulting in billions of dollars in losses. Paul Davis Restoration offices work with fire industry professionals across the US to help spread the word in their communities about the leading causes of home fires, tips for fire prevention and steps to mitigate fire, smoke and soot damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the most common causes of home fires include cooking, heating, electrical and smoking.

The safety of your family should be the number one concern when planning for fire prevention. Paul Davis Restoration offers the following fire safety tips to help protect your home and family from fire.

- **Family Plan.** Make sure you have a plan and an escape route for getting out of the house in the event of a fire. Also, make sure to have a portable ladder in each room above ground level.
- **Home “Fire Drill”.** Practice evacuating with the family and pets at least twice a year. A perfect time to practice evacuating is when you’re testing the smoke alarms and changing the batteries. Pick a spot outside where the entire family should meet. That way, if someone is missing, you can tell the fire department when they respond.
- **Smoke Alarms.** Make sure your home smoke alarms are in proper working order by pushing the test button. Change the batteries at least once a year.
- **Household Clutter.** Keep newspapers, magazines, mail, etc. away from clothes dryers, heaters, water heaters, furnaces, radiators, boilers, stoves and ovens. Remove lint regularly from around clothes dryers and don’t forget the inside of the dryer vent hose.
- **Fire Extinguishers.** Make sure there is a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, laundry room, and garage and that it is capable of putting out all three types of fires. If you don’t know, learn how to use it, and be sure to test fire extinguishers annually to ensure they are in proper working order.
- **Candles.** Use caution when burning candles. Better yet, discard them altogether. For emergency light during power failures, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns.
- **Chimney.** Have your fireplace and chimney inspected and cleaned at least once a year if you have one by a licensed contractor.

Prevention and preparedness are the keys to ensure that fire does not affect you and your family. For more information, go to www.nfpa.org or www.pdrestoration.com.