

# FIRE SAFETY

## Tips For Fire-Safe Living

(NAPSA)—Deadly home fires claim the lives of a disproportionately high number of older Americans. Beginning in their mid-60s, Americans' risk of dying in a home fire increases to nearly twice that of younger people. At age 75, the risk rises to nearly four times as likely. By age 85, the risk reaches almost five times that of the rest of the population.

To reduce this risk, the U.S. Fire Administration encourages people ages 50-plus who are preparing for the years ahead and may be caring for older loved ones to prevent fire and save lives by practicing these fire-safe behaviors.

Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths and the second-leading cause of injuries among people ages 65 and older. To prevent these injuries:

- Never smoke in bed.
- Put cigarettes or cigars out at the first sign of feeling drowsy.
- Use deep ashtrays and put cigarettes all the way out.
- Don't walk away from lit cigarettes and other smoking materials.

Heating is the second-leading cause of fire deaths and the third-leading cause of injuries to senior citizens. Here are ways for you to reduce your risk:



### **Take easy steps to avoid fire in your home.**

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- Keep fire in the fireplace by making sure you have a screen large enough to catch flying sparks and rolling logs.

- Space heaters need space. Keep flammable materials at least three feet away from heaters.

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

Cooking is the third-leading cause of fire deaths among the elderly, and the leading cause of injuries. Never leave cooking food unattended, and never use the range or oven to heat the home. Also, always double-check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving the house.

Go to [usfa.fema.gov/50Plus](https://usfa.fema.gov/50Plus) for more fire safety tips.