

Home fires: an increasing cause for alarm, use important check list for their prevention

Twelve thousand Americans are killed annually in fires; another 300,000 are injured; and property damage extends to \$3 billion.

In light of these statistics, obviously one of the most important and least expensive home improvements you can make is in the area of fire safety.

A quick check of the following points can make a vast improvement.

- Store gasoline, paints and other flammable materials in tight metal containers. Don't use flammable liquids near heat, a pilot light or while smoking.

- Have heating equipment checked annually; keep chimneys clean, and always use a screen to cover your fireplace.

- Sort and remove rubbish. Don't store things near the furnace or heater.

- Put lighters and matches where small children won't find them.

- Never smoke in bed.
- Don't overload electrical outlets.

- Replace inadequate home wiring and cracked or frayed appliance cords.

- Make sure that all appliances you purchase are U.L. or Factory Mutual tested.

- When a fuse blows, find the cause, and always

replace a blown fuse with one the same size (no pennies).

Use this check list periodically and correct any hazards you find without delay. Unfortunately, no matter how vigilant you are, a fire can still happen, so another big improvement you can make is to be sure you and your family are prepared for fire.

Consider the following:

- It's wise to have some kind of early warning alarm system. One of the

newest, which utilizes space age technology, is the General Electric Home Sentry™ Smoke Alarm.

This smoke alarm sounds for early warning of fire, often when the smoke reaching the smoke alarm is barely visible. There is no way to guarantee against injury or loss of life in a fire. The GE Smoke alarm is intended to help reduce the risk of tragedy.

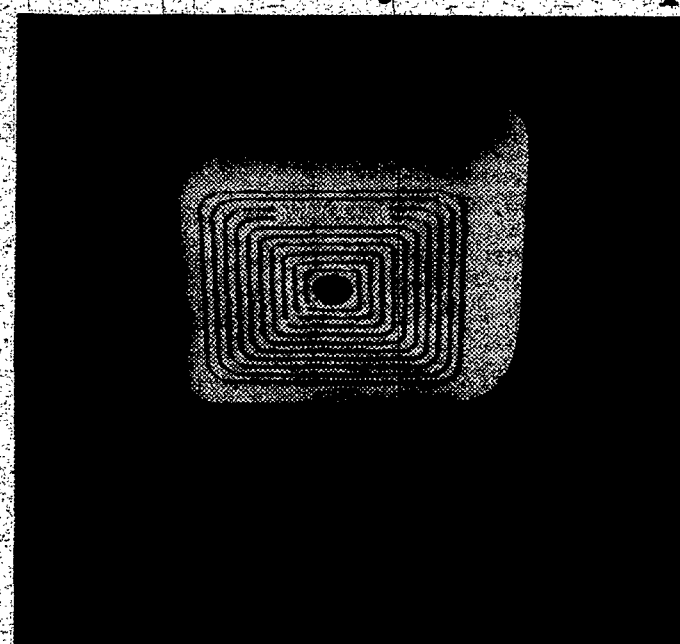
- Plan for escape from every area of your home.

Discuss escape routes (there should be two from each room) with the family, especially the children. Actually rehearse escape with fire drills.

During the drills, you can sound the alarm by pressing the red test button. This way your family will become familiar with the sound and be able to react quickly.

Save energy

Americans consume 50% more energy in their homes than in all their cars put together, according to the National Home Improvement Council; they squander about 233 million barrels of oil in their homes each year. And, if each family spent \$400.00 to fix up its house to save energy, they would get their money back in cost savings in most cases in less than five years!



YOU CAN HELP REDUCE the risk of tragedy with a GE Home Sentry™ Smoke Alarm for early warning of fire.

- Sleep with bedroom doors closed. In the event of fire, you'll gain precious extra minutes to escape.

- If you see, smell, or hear any hint of fire, don't stop to investigate. Evacuate the family immediately and telephone the fire department from a neighbor's or other outside phone.

- Before opening the door when you suspect fire in another part of the house, feel the inside of

the door with the palm of your hand. If it's hot, don't open it. If smoke is pouring into the room under the door, stuff bedding or clothing into the crack. Check with your local fire department, they will be happy to give you more

"fire improvement" information

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