

Preventing Fires In Mobile Homes

Today's Mobile Homes are safer than ever. Improvements in construction and materials have helped to make this type of residence a safe place to live.

The purpose of this brochure is to inform residents of mobile homes, and make anyone considering buying a mobile home, aware of the need for fire safety. Fire prevention is the key to safety in any kind of dwelling.

Install & Maintain Smoke Alarms

All mobile homes currently being manufactured are required to come equipped with smoke alarms. Make sure you have one in the kitchen area, outside the heating equipment area, and also in all sleeping areas. Test all smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries once a year. Never remove smoke alarm batteries unless you are immediately replacing them.



Fire Extinguishers

Keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher, labeled ABC, in the kitchen and near the furnace. Remember the word P.A.S.S., Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Shoot. If you are ever in doubt about whether or not to use a fire extinguisher, don't! Get out and call the fire department from a neighbor's house or cell phone.

Heating System Maintenance

Your heating system should be checked by a qualified technician every year. Never use the heater room for storage. Sparks and spontaneous combustion from heat build-up cause many fires that may block your escape path. Walls in the heater room should be made of noncombustible materials.



Debris Collecting Under the Home

Keep the area under your mobile home clear of debris. Never store gasoline or power equipment under your home. Fires can start there, smolder, and burn for quite a while before they may be discovered. Be sure to keep the skirting around your home in good repair as it can stop a grass fire as well as keep children and animals away from gas lines and the wiring of your home.



Electrical Systems

Know where your circuit breaker box is and know how it works. Mark each breaker as to what area it controls. If breakers trip constantly, call a qualified electrician to make the necessary repairs. Do not overload your electrical circuits and do not use extension cords on a permanent basis. Never run wires under carpets or through hallways.



Exit Windows

Be sure that every bedroom has an exterior door or window that can be used as an exit in the event of a fire. To exit from a window, slide the window up or sideways and remove the screen. If your windows crank, or operate in some other fashion, familiarize yourself with how to trip the exit latches. Remember, if you are experiencing a fire and you cannot open the window, break it with a chair, lamp, or other such object and exit the home as quickly as possible.

