



Seniors are at a High Risk for Fire Deaths

Doesn't dying of "old age" sound like a much better option than death by fire? Unfortunately, compared to the rest of the US, the risk of death by fire dramatically increases with age. United States Fire Administration statistics prove seniors have higher risk of death or injury by fire than any other age group!

- 65 - 74 are nearly **TWICE** as likely to die in a fire.
- 75 - 84 are nearly **FOUR** times as likely to die in a fire.
- 85 and older are more than **FIVE** times as likely to die in a fire.

Reasons vary. Common factors that increase fire risk include living alone, not having help, physical or sensory limits (limited strength, joint flexibility, hearing or vision loss, balance impairments, mobility such as difficulty climbing stairs, walking, carrying or lifting anything, etc.) and medications that affect quick thinking or fast physical action. If you or a loved one has any such challenging limitations, without effective emergency planning, your home life is at risk.

Common Causes of Fires

Fires are mostly preventable. Knowing common causes can be the first step to eliminating your risks.

1. **Cooking** (Leading cause of home fires)
 - Grease fires
 - Leaving flammable things near hot stove
 - Appliances
2. **Careless Smoking** (Leading cause of fire deaths. Cigarettes continue to burn even without puffing)
3. **Faulty Wiring** (Over loaded or damaged wiring)
4. **Flammable clothing** (Clothes and pajamas catching on fire)

5. **Heating** such as

- Use of portable heaters (Cause: placing portable heaters too close to flammable wood, paper, plastics and fabrics such as blankets, bedding, curtains, etc.)
- Fireplaces
- Mechanical Failure (Often due to lack of maintenance)

6. **Holiday or seasonal fires** caused by

- Unattended or open flamed candles (Christmas and Halloween)
- Dry Christmas trees
- Children playing with fire
- Flammable holiday decorations catching fire

Take preventive action now to protect your home life