



Tulsa Fire Department

Protecting Community Life, Health, Property and the Environment
By Delivering Quality Life and Fire Safety Services.

Community Relations / Public Education Branch

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Appliance Fire Safety

Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of many Americans each year and injure several hundred more. Some of these fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects, but many more are caused by the misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances.

December is the most dangerous month for electrical fires. Fire deaths are highest in winter months which call for more indoor activities and increases in lighting, heating, and appliance use. Most electrical wiring fires start with appliances. The Tulsa Fire Department offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference to you and increase your survival rate dramatically.

Appliance Fire Safety Life-Saving Tips

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home
- Regularly check your appliance cords for wear, cracks, or frays
- Never use an extension cord to permanently run an appliance
- If an appliance cord needs to be extended use a UL approved power strip with a circuit breaker built in.
- Never use a power cord or strip on a portable space heater
- Keep appliances away from wet areas, especially in the kitchen, bathroom, basement, and garage
- If an appliance has a three prong plug never break the ground off or try to force it into a two hole socket
- Immediately repair or replace faulty appliances
- Keep all appliances clean and free of clutter
- Follow the instruction guides that came with the appliance and never try to use an appliance for anything other than what it was designed to do
- In case of a fire, stay low to the ground; have an escape plan already worked out. Remember Get out and Stay out

Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home
- Each year there are 24,300 residential appliance fires resulting in 100 deaths and 925 injuries
- In 2005, air conditioning or related equipment was involved in an estimated 6,300 reported home structure fires, 30 civilian deaths, 270 civilian injuries, and \$165 million in direct property damage.
- Having a working smoke detector reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half
- For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths, please contact The Tulsa Fire Departments Community Relations / Public Education Branch @ 669-6186