



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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Bedroom Fire Safety

Each year, fire claims the lives of more than 4,000 Americans and injures more than 25,000. Bedrooms are a common area of fire origin. Many of these fires are caused by misuse or poor maintenance of electrical devices, such as overloading extension cords or using portable space heaters too close to combustibles. Many other bedroom fires are caused by children who play with matches and lighters, careless smoking, and arson.

In less than five minutes, most mattresses, when ignited, can reach what fire officials call 'flashover' temperatures (1100° Fahrenheit). The Tulsa Fire Department offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference to you and increase your survival rate dramatically.

Bedroom Fire Safety Life-Saving Tips

- Never smoke in bed
- Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard
- Keep lit candles away from bedding, curtains, papers, and anything else that can easily ignite.
- Do not run electrical cords under beds or trap them against a wall where heat can build up
- Avoid overloading electrical receptacles
- Avoid using portable heaters in the bedroom. If you must keep flammables at least 3 feet away in all directions
- Use only UL-approved electric blankets and make sure they are off and unplugged when not in use
- Keep matches and lighters locked up and away from children. Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches, evidence your child may be playing with matches

Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home
- Two-thirds of bedroom fires are set by children playing with lighters and matches
- Most electrical fires start in the bedroom
- Nearly 1,000 lives are lost to fires that start in bedrooms.
- For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths, please contact The Tulsa Fire Departments Community Relations / Public Education Branch @ 669-6186