

# Be Responsible. Be Safe.

## Smoking... A Fire Hazard



**T**hey say “Where there’s smoke, there’s fire.” Health Canada researchers have discovered that where there’s cigarette smoke, there’s a major increase in fires.

- Cigarettes are the number one known cause of fire-related fatalities in Canada.
- Cigarettes are the leading cause of residential fires in Canada.
- Fires started by cigarettes tend to result in more deaths and more property damage than fires started by other sources.
- Regulations require that all cigarettes manufactured in, or imported for sale into Canada, meet strict ignition standards.

### The Living Room

- Check furniture for fallen cigarettes or embers before you leave the room. A cigarette butt can smolder undetected for hours on carpets and under cushions before causing furniture to burst into flames.
- Use large, deep ashtrays. Safety ashtrays with a double rim and deep centre are best.

- Never leave a lit cigarette unattended in an ashtray.
- Never place an ashtray on or near something which will burn – such as on the arm of a sofa, chair or on newspapers.
- Never leave matches and lighters where children can reach them. Teach your children that playing with fire is dangerous.
- If smoking sets off your smoke alarm, don’t remove the battery. Open windows to clear cigarette smoke.
- These are some features you can expect to find on New Model Smoke Alarms:
  - a "missing battery" indicator
  - an optional alarm hush or silence feature
  - the use of a power "on" indicator light to show that ac power is being supplied to 120 volt wired in smoke alarms.

### The Bedroom

- Never smoke in bed! It is too easy to doze off – causing a serious fire hazard. The bedroom should be off-limits to smoking except in special circumstances where extra precautions are taken.
- Smokers should be encouraged to smoke only in certain designated rooms such as the living room and the kitchen.

- Elderly family members should be supervised if they must smoke in bed. Supervision is also important for smokers who are on medication and who may become drowsy or forget to extinguish their lit cigarettes.
- Smoke alarms should be installed in rooms where smoking is allowed and the battery tested regularly.



### The Garage and Workshop

- Garages and workshops contain highly flammable materials such as thinners, gas, paints and industrial cleaners. These chemicals should be tightly covered and stored away from heat or flames.
- Paper products and wood shavings are also combustible. Keep your work area clean. Don’t give fire a place to start.
- Keep your work space well ventilated to ensure that flammable gases can vent to the outdoors.
- Store matches and lighters in a safe place, well away from children.
- Avoid smoking in areas which contain flammable products. If you must smoke, use extreme caution.
- Have a working fire extinguisher handy, and know how to use it. Keep it properly maintained so that it will work in an emergency.
- If a fire starts and you can’t put it out quickly, get out and stay out! Call for help from a neighbour’s phone.