



Risk of Domestic Fires

How do you prevent a fire?

It is necessary to put into practice a few preventative measures that are listed below:

1. Don't smoke, if you do then do it outside
2. Don't leave pans unattended on the stove and keep combustible materials away from the stovetop area
3. Have periodic checks of heating system, kitchen and chimney by a qualified technician
4. Keep matches and lighters away from children
5. Don't keep flammable liquids near heat sources
6. Don't use gas appliances or have open flames (including fireplaces) in rooms lacking appropriate ventilation

What do you do if there is a fire?

To fight a fire, it is important to follow these simple steps:

1. If a pot catches fire, simply put a lid on it so that the flames are covered
2. If the clothes you are wearing catch fire, do not run around (air feeds fire); rather, try to undress or suffocate the flames by rolling around or covering them in a blanket
3. If an electrical appliance catches fire, be sure to disconnect the power before turning off the appliance

Remember to not use water to put out an electrical fire, this could lead to an electric shock. Also, do not use water to put out a gas or oil fire, because these substances float on water and throwing water on them could lead to the fire spreading.

Emergency instructions

1. If possible, look for an exit or find a safe place. This way, you avoid breathing in smoke and remaining close to the fire.
2. If you feel sick, immediately contact 118. You can become sick by breathing in the smoke and other fumes in the air.
3. If the fire is in the room, place a cloth (preferably wet) over your mouth to filter the air you breathe and get on the ground. Smoke rises, so the air on the ground is more breathable.

4. Take care of people that are unable to take care of themselves, and if possible, get them to a safe place. They may not realize the danger.
5. If the fire is on the other side of a door, seal all the cracks with wet rags. Avoid letting smoke near you and allow the door to contain the fire.
6. Access to places affected by a fire should only be granted after they are cooled and ventilated. Thorough ventilation, for at least a few hours, is essential.
7. If you live in a condominium or apartment, remember to not use the elevator in the case of a fire. It can get stuck and prevent your escape.
8. Before you reenter a building, consult with the fire department. There could still be other dangerous situations, even after the fire has been put out.
9. In crowded places, go to the fire exit nearest to you without pushing or screaming. The exits were made with the rapid evacuation of many people in mind.
10. Groceries that came in contact with heat or smoke from the fire are no longer edible. They could be contaminated.