

# HOW TO BE FIRE SAFE

*PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS*

**Edmonton**



**Address**

**Phone Number**

*EDMONTON.CA/FIRERESCUESERVICES*



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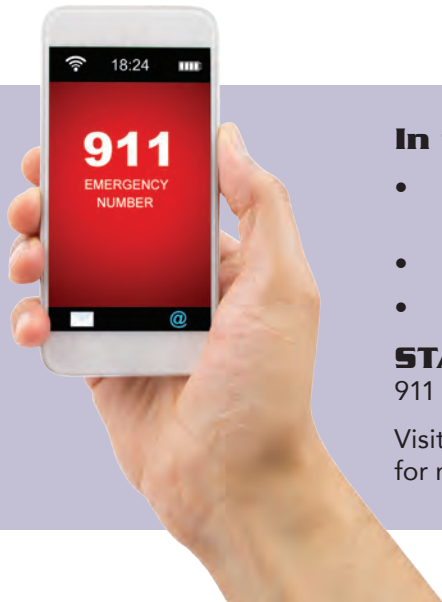
# EDMONTON FIRE RESCUE AND FIRE PREVENTION

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Edmonton Fire Rescue Services is committed to protecting the life, property and environment of our city. Fire statistics show that most fire injuries and deaths occur in the home. In addition, repairing and rebuilding damaged wood frame buildings requires an extensive amount of natural resources and has a negative impact on our City's carbon footprint. **The majority of fire injuries, deaths and negative environmental impacts can be prevented** by following a few simple fire safety tips and knowing about potential hazards.

For fire safety tips from Edmonton Fire Rescue Services in 19 different languages, visit [firetalk.worldfm.ca](http://firetalk.worldfm.ca)





## **In the event of a fire emergency:**

- Remove yourself and others from immediate danger
- Close doors behind you
- Call 911 from a safe location

## **STAY CALM:**

911 is your number for help in all emergencies.

Visit [www.3minutedrill.alberta.ca](http://www.3minutedrill.alberta.ca) for more information.



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# SMOKE ALARMS

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A smoke alarm is your first line of defence if there is a fire in your home.

**Early detection is vital for survival.** Most fire fatalities occur as a result of breathing in smoke and toxic gases, not from the fire itself.

Smoke alarms should be installed on **every level of your home** and within **5m (16') of all bedrooms**, mounted as per manufacturer's recommendations. They should be **tested monthly** and **replaced every ten years**.

Batteries should be replaced **at least once a year**.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



Carbon monoxide is an  
invisible, silent, odourless killer.



**WAKE UP.**

Carbon monoxide alarms save lives.

## What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, silent, odourless toxic gas. In an enclosed space, such as a home or garage, CO exposure can lead to serious illness or death.

## What are the signs of CO exposure?

- ✓ Headache and dizziness
- ✓ Fatigue and weakness
- ✓ Watering and burning eyes
- ✓ Nausea and vomiting
- ✓ Loss of muscle control

## Where does CO come from?

Improperly operating natural gas appliances:

- ✓ Furnace
- ✓ Hot water heater
- ✓ Dryer
- ✓ Range
- ✓ Fireplace

Exhaust from:

- ✓ Gas and diesel vehicles
- ✓ Gas-powered machines
- ✓ Wood-burning fireplaces

**Get a CO alarm today at your local home improvement retailer.**

**ATCO** always there.  
anywhere.

Learn how you can protect your home at [ATCOGas.com/CO](https://www.ATCOGas.com/CO)







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## USING CANDLES SAFELY

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Candles are one of the leading causes of fires in the home. Follow these simple tips to keep your family safe:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended – even for a few moments.
- Never leave a candle burning while you are asleep.
- Candles must be secured in a non-combustible holder.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Never place a candle near combustibles such as papers, decorations or drapes.
- Candle wicks should be cut to approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch prior to lighting.
- Do not place candles on a top heavy candle holder (easily tipped over).
- Recommend to use battery operated (LED) candles in place of real candles as a safe alternative.
- When you GO OUT, BLOW OUT.



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## COOKING WITH CARE

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Cooking is the leading cause of fires in homes. If you have a cooking fire in a pot or pan, slowly slide a lid over top to cover the fire and then turn off the source of heat. If you don't have a pot lid, use a baking sheet or other non-combustible item that completely covers the pot/pan.

**GREASE FIRES:** Use the lid or cookie sheet like a shield, slide over pot away from body. Turn off element and leave the pot to cool off. **DO NOT USE WATER.** If the fire does not stop, get out and call 911.

Fires can happen quickly and without warning. Remember to:

- Never leave anything that is cooking unattended – even for a moment.
- Never cook under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Use back burners when possible and always turn pot handles inward.
- Keep oven mitts and cloths off of the stove.
- Keep children away from the stove/oven.
- Don't lift a pot off of the stove into a sink.
- Wear short sleeves or tight fitting clothing while cooking.

Should a fire occur, call 911 immediately and evacuate your home.



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## **SMOKER'S MATERIALS**

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Some of the most dangerous and devastating fires are caused by improperly disposed of smoker's materials. Smoker's materials have caused hundreds of fires resulting in numerous deaths and injuries and hundreds of millions in damages. Citizens who smoke can help Edmonton Fire Rescue Services protect life, property and the environment by:

- Always extinguish smoking materials in deep, non-combustible ashtrays.
- Make sure that matches and cigarette butts in ashtrays are wet before you put them in a garbage container.
- Never extinguish smoking materials in plant pots.
- Never discard smoking materials on the ground.
- Keep lighters, matches and cigarettes out of the reach of children

Cigarettes and other smoking materials that are not properly extinguished can smoulder undetected for days before igniting a fire. Regardless of how they start, they are almost always preventable.



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## **FIRE PITS**

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If you are using a fire pit, it must meet the standards outlined in the City of Edmonton Community Standard's Bylaw #14600.

According to this bylaw, your fire pit must:

- be at least 3 metres (10 feet) from buildings, property lines, overhead power lines and any other combustibles (trees, etc.)
- not exceed 0.6 metres (2 feet) in height
- not exceed 1 metre (3 feet) in width or diameter
- have enclosed sides made from bricks, concrete blocks or heavy-gauge metal
- have a spark-arrestor mesh screen with openings no larger than 1.25 cm (½ inch)

Only burn clean fuel, dry wood or charcoal, when using a fire pit. Remember, it is illegal to burn rubber, plastic, or any material that generates unacceptable amounts of dense smoke which can be noxious, offensive or toxic, and harmful to the environment.



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921P



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# GAS BARBECUE SAFETY

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- Make sure the burner holes and tubes connected to the burners are rust and debris free and that the burner throat, where the propane enters the burner, is free of dust or cobwebs.
- Soap test all hoses and joints regularly. Leave the barbecue valve off and the cylinder valve on. Spread the soap and water solution generously on all fittings and the hose. If bubbles appear and become larger or increase in number, then you have a leak. Never check for leaks with an open flame.
- Always use gas grills outdoors. Grilling in the garage with the door open does not allow for enough ventilation and could cause an accumulation of carbon monoxide and flare ups.
- When lighting your barbecue, have the match or lighter already burning with the barbecue lid open before you turn on the propane.
- In order to prevent propane from getting trapped in the hose after each use, turn off the propane tank cylinder valve first, then the "ON/OFF" valve on the barbecue.
- Never leave a lit barbecue unattended.
- Make sure your barbecue is at least 1 metre (3 feet) from your house or other combustible objects.
- Never move a lit barbecue and make sure it has cooled completely before covering.
- Do not bring a propane tank indoors or store in enclosed spaces such as a garage or vehicle.
- Always keep children and pets away from a hot barbecue.





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# CHARCOAL BARBECUE SAFETY

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- Never use gasoline to get a charcoal barbecue started. Use only charcoal lighting fluid.
- Wait for at least a minute before lighting fluid-soaked coals in order for explosive vapors to dissipate.
- Never spray lighter fluid on hot coals. You could end up causing an explosion or fire.
- Always extinguish the coals when you're finished barbecuing. Submerge coals in a metal pail of water using tongs and wearing oven mitts.
- Always keep children and pets away from a hot barbecue.
- Always use the lid provided with charcoal barbecues.

Note: Solid fuel BBQ's are prohibited for apartment use (as per Alberta Fire Code).



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# HOME HEATING

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Every year, home heating devices cause a number of fires throughout the City of Edmonton. These simple tips can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

- If you smell gas, leave the building immediately and call 911 for help.
- Maintain 1 metre (3 feet) minimum of space around furnaces and space heaters.
- Ensure that space heaters are placed in a stable location protected from accidental contact with flammable and combustible materials.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Plug space heaters directly into the wall. Never use an extension cord.
- Never use space heaters to dry wet clothes.
- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Always keep furnace access covers in place.
- Have your heating equipment serviced annually.



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## **FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN**

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- Teach your children that if they hear the smoke alarm, they need to get outside and stay out, until an adult tells them it is safe to go back in.
- Never go back into a building until it is safe to do so.
- Put your home address and emergency phone numbers up in your home so children can find them.
- Make an escape plan together with your family. Draw out your home and mark two ways out of every room and a meeting place outside where everyone will go when they leave the home.
- Practice your escape plan with everyone in the family once a month, so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.
- If you do have to escape your home and there is smoke in the air, stay low to the ground or crawl outside to safety. Once outside, call 9-1-1.
- Keep candles, matches and lighters where they cannot be reached by children. Teach children they are tools for adults to use.
- If your children are old enough to be home alone, it is important they know and understand how to be fire safe.





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# YOUTH FIRESETTER INTERVENTION

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Alberta fire statistics show that about 20% of child fire victims died in fires they started themselves. Matches and lighters were used in 70% of the destructive fires started by children.

If your child has misused fire, deliberately started a fire or if you are concerned about your child's interest in fire - please call Edmonton Fire Rescue Services' Fire Prevention Office. Y-FIRES is a one time meeting which includes a parent interview, child interview, incident overview, educational discussion, video discussion and referral to professional help when necessary.

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists can help youth understand that 'playing with' or misusing fire is very dangerous. Deliberate firesetting is a serious matter. Youth who have deliberately started a fire may be indirectly indicating additional, underlying problems. Edmonton Fire Rescue Services can assist with a referral to outside agencies for further assessment when needed.

For more information, call 780-496-3628 or email [yfires@edmonton.ca](mailto:yfires@edmonton.ca)



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# ELECTRICAL SAFETY

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Statistics show that December is the most dangerous month in terms of electrical fires. The weather is cold and days are short, so more heating and lighting appliances are used around the house.

Here are some safety tips for preventing electrical fires:

- Always keep an eye out for warning signs of a potential problem, including plugs and sockets that feel hot to the touch.
- Do not use any appliances or extension cords with frayed wiring or exposed wires.
- Plug only one appliance into an outlet at a time. Plugging more than one appliance into an outlet could cause an overload, which can lead to a short circuit and a fire.
- Never run cords under rugs, carpets or mats as they can fray or snap unnoticed.
- When using power bars, do not “gang” them together in a series; use only one at a time.
- Always use the correct wattage when fitting a light bulb in a lamp. The bulb can overheat or short circuit, which can cause a fire.
- Extension cords should not be used in place of permanent wiring.
- Only plug one space heater into a receptacle at a time.
- Ensure all plug-in appliances have a CSA or UL listing tag/markings on them to ensure they have been tested for use in Canada/North America.
- Arc fault short circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home by a qualified electrician.
- Have all electrical work in your home or business completed by a qualified electrician.



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# **FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING**

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Fires may occur in the middle of the night, when people are sleeping. In the event of a fire, you will not have time to consider your escape options. It is important to practice your escape plan regularly so you will be prepared should a fire occur.

Be sure to identify two exits from each room, especially the bedrooms. Ensure that your plan accommodates the needs of children, seniors and those with disabilities.

Arrange a safe meeting spot as part of your escape plan. Use a neighbour's house, school, etc. to ensure the meeting place is safe and away from the fire.

Part of your escape plan should include an evacuation kit that is easily accessible. Examples of items in this kit are as follows:

- warm clothing
- medication, doctor's and pharmacist's phone numbers
- ID, bank and credit cards, cash, keys, glasses, hearing aids, dentures

Have your address posted beside your telephone for your children and babysitters, in case of an emergency.

Sleep with bedroom doors closed, as this will prevent smoke and fire from moving into the room.

If your bedroom window is too high to safely jump out from, ensure your bedroom door is closed and then go to the window, open it and yell for help. Call 9-1-1 if possible and tell them where you are. Ensure everyone in your family knows how to open the windows and screen to get out.

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# FAMILY/EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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## Emergency Numbers, Edmonton & Area:

- 911 Fire, Ambulance, Police, Hazardous Materials Spills
- 311 City of Edmonton information for Edmonton Transit Services, Bylaw, garbage and recycling, sewer services, and recreation program registration.  
**Anyone requiring fire, ambulance, or police emergency assistance must call 911.**
- 780-420-5585 Gas Emergency
- 780-412-4500 Electrical Emergency
- 780-412-6800 Water Emergency
- 1-800-332-1414 Poison Control
- 211 Support Network – single access point to the health, human services, community resources, and government assistance people need every day as well as in time of crisis.
- 780-423-4567 Non-emergency Edmonton Police Services line
- 1-800-242-3447 Alberta One-Call:  
**[www.alberta1call.com](http://www.alberta1call.com)**  
Alberta Health Services  
**[www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca)**
- 811 Health Link 24 hours  
(780-408-5465 if outside of Alberta or if using an internet-based phone service.)

## **Household Members:**

### **Member #1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or school name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Member #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or school name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Member #3**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or school name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Member #4**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or school name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Emergency Contacts:**

### **Contact #1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or school name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home or cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Contact #2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work or school name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home or cell number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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