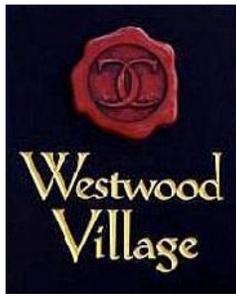


# Overview

- Fire is probably our most significant risk
- Big difference between single family and multi-family living
- **Every** owner must be diligent – **all it takes is one** to impact many
- If you observe a potentially dangerous situation, you **must** speak up
- Even if fire suppression system works, water damage can be significant
- Cooking causes the most fires
- Smoking results in the most fire deaths
- Many other potential causes of home fires (attached)
- Also, review your insurance coverages with your agent
  - The Association's insurance does not cover your individual unit
  - You could also be held liable for damage to the building and other owners' units
- It takes 100% of us to work together to have a safe living environment



## Fire Causes and Preventive Measures

- Cooking is a major cause of house fires. Never leave cooking unattended.
- Exercise caution disposing of smoking materials including around buildings (WWV Rules & Regulations).
- Children playing with matches is a frequent cause of fires.
- Be careful not to overload electrical outlets. Replace frayed or damaged cords.
- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use as an extra safety measure.
- Gas appliances should receive periodic maintenance as recommended by manufacturer.
- No flammable liquids may be stored on the premises (WWV Rules & Regulations).
- Candle use is discouraged, especially during power outages.
- Charcoal grills are not permitted (WWV Rules & Regulations). Electric grills should not be left unattended.
- Dryer screens should be cleaned after every load. Turn off dryer before leaving home.
- Bathroom vent fans can overheat due to dust buildup if left running too long.
- If you smell gas, get out of building first and THEN call 911.
- Everyone should have at least one fire extinguisher and CO detector.
  - Class A+B+C extinguisher best for general use.
  - Place CO detector as close to floor as possible.



# COOKING FIRES ARE THE #1 CAUSE OF HOME FIRES



Do Not Let Your Dinner Turn Into This!



These fires above started as a result of unattended cooking right here in Chesterfield County

## You can prevent cooking fires

- ◆ Be alert! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking
- ◆ According to the U.S. Fire Administration, on average, cooking fires result in 110 deaths, 3,525 injuries, and \$309 million in property loss every year
- ◆ Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the burner
- ◆ While you are cooking in the oven, check it regularly. Always remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer as a reminder
- ◆ If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop
- ◆ Keep all combustibles — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop

## Take these steps to keep your family safe

- ◆ Never use water on a grease fire. Instead, keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby: Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid or baking sheet over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled
- ◆ Get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire
- ◆ Call 9-1-1
- ◆ For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed

For more information, contact Chesterfield Fire & Life Safety (804) 748-1426, [www.chesterfield.gov/fire](http://www.chesterfield.gov/fire)



## Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are *preventable*.



**These fires above started as a result of improperly discarded smoking materials right here in Chesterfield County**

Every year in the U.S., almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are *preventable*. You *can* make a difference! If you smoke or live with someone who smokes, learn the facts. A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed, or hot cigarette ashes or matches tossed away before they are completely out, can cause a large fire in seconds. In 2013, the average dollar loss for structure fires in Chesterfield County caused by cigarettes was \$35,500 per fire.

**Putting out a cigarette the right way only takes seconds, too. It is up to you to make sure your cigarette is put out, all the way, every time.**

One-in-four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire. More than one third were children of the smokers and twenty-five percent were neighbors or friends of the smokers.

### **Take these steps to keep your family safe**

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays or a metal container filled with sand.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are completely out.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- Never extinguish cigarettes in a flower pot.
- Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.

**For more information, contact Chesterfield Fire & Life Safety (804) 748-1426, [www.chesterfield.gov/fire](http://www.chesterfield.gov/fire)**



**Smoke  
Alarms**



**Save  
Lives**



According to the U.S. Fire Administration, two-thirds of the annual fire deaths occur in homes without a working smoke alarm. Early notification of a fire can lead to not only saving lives and reducing injuries but also reducing property loss as a result of the fire.

## **Take these steps to keep your family safe**

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home (to include the attic and basement).
- Test and clean your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Install smoke alarms outside of the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.
- When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. Have a plan and practice it with the entire family.
- **Call 9-1-1 from outside.**

For more information, contact Chesterfield Fire & Life Safety (804) 748-1426, [www.chesterfield.gov/fire](http://www.chesterfield.gov/fire)

# Fire Safety References

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

<http://www.nfpa.org/>

Chesterfield County – Fire and EMS

<http://www.chesterfield.gov/fire/>

Westwood Village Rules & Regulations

Top 10 Causes of House Fires

<http://www.readersdigest.ca/home-garden/cleaning/top-10-causes-house-fires>

Multifamily Residential Building Fires

<http://nfa.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v10i6.pdf>

Fire Safety in Multi-Family Dwellings

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/FR/fmo/Pages/Fire-Safety-in-Multi-Family-Dwellings.aspx>

Fire Extinguisher: 101 – Fire Extinguisher Maintenance

<http://www.fire-extinguisher101.com/careandmaintenance.html>

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/co-and-smoke-alarms/buying-guide.htm>

Mulch Fires Are More Common Than You Think!

[http://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/Mulch-Fires-2011-09\\_pub.pdf](http://www.dof.virginia.gov/infopubs/Mulch-Fires-2011-09_pub.pdf)

The warning firefighters want you to hear about bathroom exhaust fans

<http://wtvr.com/2015/02/12/bathroom-exhaust-fan-fire/>

Do's and Don'ts for Your Furnace Room

<http://goldstarcooling.com/dos-and-donts-for-your-furnace-room/>

Kiipr Pouch Pocket Ashtray 10-pack

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