



# Smoke Signals

## A Life Safety Newsletter

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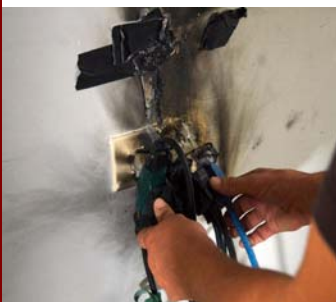


City of Dallas

### Electrical Safety:

We use electricity every day so it is easy to become complacent about it's dangers. Remember these safety tips every day:

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Do not use extension cords to power permanent appliances. Plug them directly into a wall outlet.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard.



### Does your home have a working smoke alarm?

If your home does not have a working smoke alarm, please call 3-1-1. Dallas Fire-Rescue will be glad to install a free smoke alarm for you!



### What is causing fires in the city of Dallas?

#### Electrical:

Still the leading cause of residential fires in Dallas. Remember not to use extension cords for permanent wiring and avoid overloading power strips and electrical plugs. Do not run electrical cords across doorways or under carpets. Many older homes are not properly wired for today's modern appliances so remember to be cautious in your use of electricity.

#### Improperly Discarded Smoking Materials:

Discard cigarettes, cigars and pipes safely and completely. Never drop smoking materials in a trash can or out the car window. Make sure your smoking materials are extinguished by running them under the water until they are cool to the touch. If you smoke, it is always best to smoke outside.

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#### Unattended Cooking:

More home fires begin in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Keep anything that can catch fire like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains away from your stove top. If a pan fire begins on your stove, slide a lid over the top of the pan to suffocate the fire and turn off the burner. Get everyone out and call 9-1-1 immediately.

#### Combustibles too close to heat:

Winter brings cooler temperatures so heat your home carefully! Keep a 3 ft clearance of combustibles from any heat source including space heaters, fireplaces, grills, furnaces and stoves. Have your furnace inspected by a professional and install a carbon monoxide detector according to manufacturers directions.

#### Children playing with fire:

Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start fires by playing with matches and lighters... And are most likely to die in them. Teach your children not to play with fire and if you know of a juvenile who has shown tendencies to start fires, call 214-670-4312. Our Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program can help.

#### Carbon Monoxide:

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, cooking and heating equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. Take note of these tips concerning CO:

- Follow manufactures instructions for placement of detectors in your home.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location.
- Remove cars from the garage to warm up. Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if the garage door is open.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.

