

USAG Schweinfurt
Fire & Emergency Services Division



**YOUR FIRE
DEPARTMENT
WANTS YOU
TO PREVENT FIRE!**



Be a Partner in Fire Prevention

INTRODUCTION

FIRE PREVENTION IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN FIRE PROTECTION

Fact:

A home fire is reported to a fire department roughly every 1-1/2 minutes!

If you follow the safety tips in this booklet you will reduce fire hazards in your home, creating a safer place to life for you and your family!

You are a key player! Your assistance in Fire Prevention is greatly appreciated by your Fire & Emergency Services Division.

Look into our Make Your Home Fire Safe - Hunt For Fire Hazards Checklist

Hans Wolf
Fire Chief, USAG Schweinfurt
Fire & Emergency Services Division



REPORTING A FIRE

The Fire Control Center is your immediate access for any emergencies within the USAG Schweinfurt area , it is staffed 24/7 with bilingual emergency operators. The emergency operators have rapid access to German and US Fire Departments, as well as any other US and/or Host Nation Agency.

All fires involving US property On - or Off Post must be reported to the Fire Control Center, even if already extinguished.

The Fire Call Number from every Military Phone is **117**

The Fire Call Number from every Civilian Phone is **87711**

Important Note: If you live outside the Schweinfurt local dialing area, you must use the prefix **09721**

Safety Tip: 1. Cell phones always require the prefix number 09721!
2. Program the Fire Call Number in your telephone and cell phone!

Remember the five W's

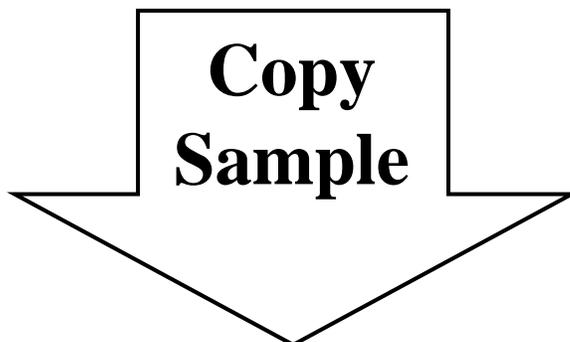
1. **What** happened?
2. **What** is involved?
3. **Where** did it happen? (give exact location, building and apartment number)
4. **Was** anybody injured? (If so, give number of injuries)
5. **Wait** for further questions!

For fire prevention questions or concerns contact your local Fire Prevention Office:

Military Phone: 353-8795 / 8796

Civilian Phone: (09721)- 96-8795 / 8796

Post your Emergency Numbers next to your Phone!



FIRE CALL

DSN: **117**

CIV or Cellphone: (09721)-**87711**

Installation or Town.....

Street.....

Building / Apartment / Room Number.....

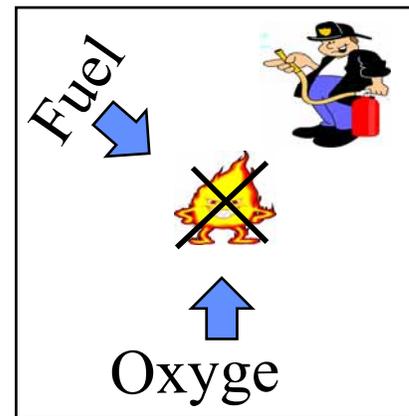
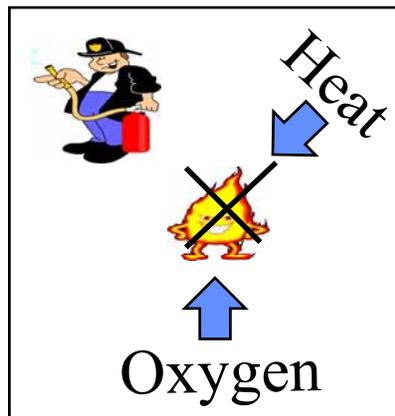
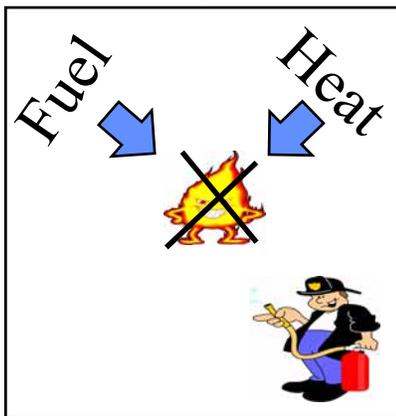
THE CHEMISTRY OF FIRE

The numbers of fires caused by uncontrollable natural reactions is minimal - in - relation to those caused by the carelessness of man and his apathy in acquiring and using the information available on the characteristics, chemistry, and physics of fire.

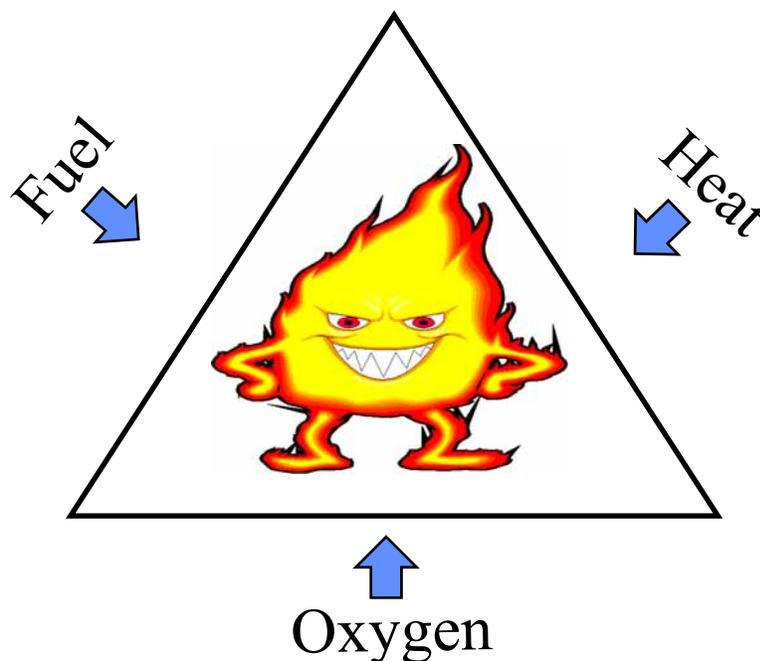
Knowledge of the principles of fire can also help in extinguishing those fires that he fails to prevent.

Fire in some ways is like a human being. Both require the same three elements to exist, and each ceases to exist if any one of these elements is withdrawn. Just as man needs food, the fire needs fuel; as man needs oxygen, the fire also needs oxygen; and as man needs warmth, the fire too must have warmth (ignition temperature). Therefore, to create and sustain fire, there must be fuel, oxygen, and heat.

The relationship of these elements is shown below.



n



CLASSES OF FIRE

Fires are divided into four main classes: Class "A", Class "B", Class "C", and Class "D". These classes are based on the combustion characteristics of the material ignited. In most cases, structural fires are combinations of at least two and sometimes all of these classes.

1. **CLASS "A" FIRES** are ordinary combustible fires, such as bedding mattresses, books, cloth, canvas, wood and paper. Class "A" fires must be dealt with by cooling the fire below its ignition temperature.
2. **CLASS "B" FIRES** are flammable liquid/gas fires, such as gasoline, jet fuels, kerosene, oils, paint, turpentine, grease, tar, and other combustible substances. Class "B" fires must be dealt with by smothering, blocking off air and/or oxygen.
3. **CLASS "C" FIRES** are live electrical fires. They present an extra hazard, because of the danger of electrical shock. A non-conducting extinguishing agent is essential for fighting a Class "C" fire. An additional consideration in fighting Class "C" fires is the fact that it may be quite important to avoid damaging the electrical equipment in the process of extinguishing the fire. The first step in extinguishing a Class "C" fire is to secure the source of power to the circuit or equipment on fire. The preferred agent in fighting Class "C" fires is carbon dioxide (CO₂).
4. **CLASS "D" FIRES** are combustible metal fires, such as titanium, zirconium, sodium, etc. The greatest hazard exists when these metals are in the molten state or in finely divided forms of dust, trimmings, or shavings. Ordinary extinguishing agents are ineffective on these fires, and they are best controlled by covering them with special dry powdered or granular materials, which exclude oxygen and which will not react or combine adversely with metal.

Safety Tip:

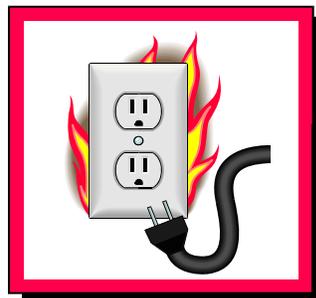
1. Get familiar with the fire extinguisher in your building, read the instructions before you have to use an extinguisher!
2. Know the location of the nearest fire extinguisher!
3. Only fight small fires on your own, ensure the fire department is notified!



Ordinary
Combustibles



Flammable
Liquids



Electrical
Equipment



Combustible
Metal

WHAT CAUSES FIRES?

CARELESSNESS AND NEGLIGENCE are the primary source of the fires experienced within the USAG Schweinfurt. Most common causes are:

- a. *Food on unattended kitchen ranges.*
- b. *Children playing with matches.*
- c. *Unattended lighted candles.*



Unattended cooking-one major cause of fire in our community!

If a fire starts in a pan or pot on top of the stove, immediately turn off the stove. Try to smother the flames with a lid. Move the pan away from the hot burner but **NEVER** risk carrying a burning pan out of the house. You could spill the burning grease and involve the whole apartment.

Never pour water on a grease fire, this will spread the fire!

If a fire breaks out in the oven, turn off the power or gas supply. Try smothering the fire by keeping the oven door closed. Clean ovens, range-tops and exhaust hoods to keep them free of grease. Keep clothing from coming into contact with the flame or heating element. Reaching over the stove could cause garments to catch fire, especially the sleeves of robes, dresses, housecoats etc. Wear snug fitting or short - sleeved clothing.

Don't try to fight anything but a small fire, always notify the fire department immediately!

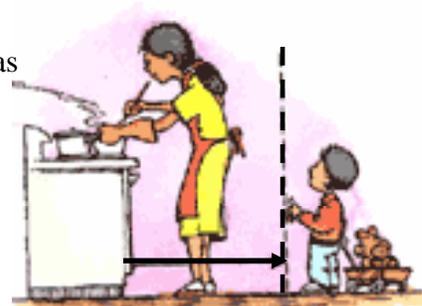
Safety Tip: 1. Never leave cooking food on a stovetop unattended!

2. Keep a close eye on food cooking in the oven!

3. Keep children and pets away from cooking areas by creating a three-foot "kid-free zone"!

4. Turn pot handles inward so they can't be bumped and children can't grab them!

5. Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles!



BUYING TIME with HOME FIRE DETECTION

You can't rely on your own sense and presence of mind to detect and escape from fire. The very nature of smoke and other fire products may prevent you from realizing the danger and reacting properly.

Most fatal residential fires strike at night when people are asleep. To be alerted in time for a safe escape, you need a device that will react, not succumb to fire. A smoke detector will give you the extra minutes you'll need to escape.

All family housing units are provided with single station smoke detectors, these detectors are hard-wired and connected to an electrical circuit.

- Smoke detectors in quarters of military family housing areas and government leased quarters which are connected to electrical circuits, have to be tested monthly.
- Battery operated smoke detectors (likely to occur in government leased quarters) have to be tested weekly, **but ask your Housing Office for replacement.**
- AFH newly renovated buildings are equipped with smoke detectors which are under constant supervision by the alarm systems, and therefore do not need to be checked.

How to perform the test?



Two easy steps!

- 1. Step: Push or turn the test knob until the alarm sound.**
- 2. Step: Release or turn test knob to original position**

alarm will stop and the smoke detector will reset automatically.



If the detector does not sound the alarm during the test, notify the Military Fire Station Schweinfurt immediately!

- Safety Tip:**
- 1.** Test hard-wired smoke detectors monthly, battery operated detectors weekly!
 - 2.** Schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clock from daylight to standard time in the fall!
 - 3.** Clean detector from dust periodically, using a vacuum cleaner!
 - 4.** Keep a clear and free distance of at least 20 inches around smoke detectors!

IT'S NOT THE FLAME

The prime danger from fire is *N O T* the flame or heat, but rather smoke and toxic gases. As smoke, heat and toxic gases rise, the danger area is concentrated at heights, even, with, and above the fire. Many people loose their lives in a fire from smoke or gas inhalation and *N O T* from the flames or heat.

Escape through smoke!

Smoke rises! During a fire a room fills with smoke from the ceiling to the floor. Therefore you can find clean air close to the floor.

- Safety Tip:**
- 1.** Get down and remain within 12 to 24 inches of the floor. Where the air is cleaner and cooler!
 - 2.** If your escape route is already totally involved in smoke, it is safer to seek refuge in a smoke free room!
 - 3.** Use wet towels to seal crack at the bottom of the door!



PLANNING YOUR ESCAPE

Many housing occupants have expressed their concern about not having exterior fire escapes for government quarters.

The following information should provide some explanation to address this concern:

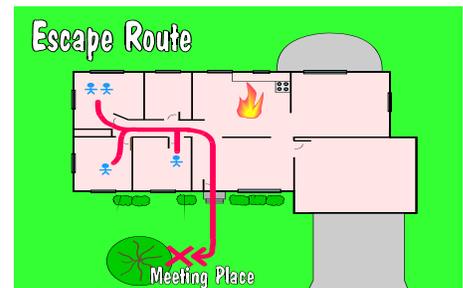
All standard multi-story housing occupancies are of fire resistant construction. **All floors and walls are of masonry construction, designed to preclude a fire extending vertically or horizontally from one apartment to another.** Many individuals do not believe even when informed, the degree of fire protection that is built into such buildings, and panic when a fire occurs. It is possible that a stairwell becomes impassable above a fire if the door to a burning apartment is left open, or when a fire involves combustible materials in the basement. **Considering these facts, the safest alternative is not to leave the apartment, but to remain inside until the fire is extinguished.** Fire evacuation plans for the apartments of multi story buildings should be based on the alternatives:

☞ **If the amount of smoke and heat in the stairwell will permit travel on the stairwell to the outside, occupants should evacuate the building.**

☞ **If the amount of smoke or heat prevents travel on the stairwell the occupants should remain in the apartment until the fire is extinguished or until evacuated by the Fire Department. (See next page)**

☞ ***Remember:* The prime danger is not the flame or heat but rather smoke and toxic gases. Remaining in the apartment is often the safest alternative.**

☞ **The secondary escape rout (refuge area) of your Evacuation Plan could be a window or balcony. Protect your self from smoke. (See next page)**



Safety Tip: 1. Get together with your family and develop a fire escape plan!

2. Remember the fire resistant construction, if you live above the 1st floor your secondary escape can be a window or balcony, ensure they are leading to a paved road!

3. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year, making sure everybody of your family is involved!

4. Agree on an outside meeting place where everyone can meet after they've escaped!

PRACTICE E.D.I.T.H. - EXIT DRILL IN THE HOME

IF YOU CANNOT LEAVE YOUR APARTMENT

Call the Fire Department, explain your situation!

DSN: 117 or Civ.: (09271)-87711

You must protect yourself from smoke! Stay in your apartment until you are rescued or until you are told to leave. (See previous page)

How to avoid smoke spread into your apartment:

- Use duct tape so seal cracks around the door and place wet towels at the bottom of the door.
- If smoke still enters your apartment, move to the balcony or a window as remote as possible. Close the room doors behind you and seal them with tape and towels. Open the window for fresh air.
- Show the Fire Fighters where you are by hanging a sheet from the window or balcony etc.
- Keep low to the floor where the air is cleaner.
- Listen for instructions from authorities.



REMEMBER, FIRE SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!

Fire In your Residential Building!

To Go?? Or To Stay??

When should I go?

Evacuation is appropriate under any of the following conditions:

A: As soon as possible when you hear the fire alarm or discover a fire. The earlier you leave, the better are your chances of getting out safely no matter where you are located in relation to the fire area. It is extremely rare for stairways and corridors to be contaminated by smoke in the early stages of a fire. Proceed as quickly as possible to the outside.

B: If the fire is in your apartment. You are in immediate danger and should ensure that everyone who is in your apartment leaves with you. If you have physical limitations, plan ahead to ensure that you can get the assistance you need to evacuate quickly. Close the apartment door behind you. Activate the fire alarm system and warn other residents located on your floor as you exit the building. Call the fire department when it is safe to do so.

C: I the fire is on your floor or the floor below you. You should evacuate as quickly as possible if you have reason to believe that the fire is on your floor or on the floor immediately below you. Activate the fire alarm system and warn other residents on your way out.

When should I stay?

A: If you encounter smoke in the stairwell or basement. This may be an indication that the fire is in an advanced stage or is located on your floor. If you cannot safely exit the building, return to your apartment or seek refuge in an apartment on the floor level you are, as quickly as possible. Take actions to protect yourself from smoke! Call the fire emergency number and provide details of your situation.

B: If instructed to remain in the apartment by fire department personnel handling the fire emergency. Attempting to evacuate at this stage may expose you to smoke unnecessarily and may impede fire fighting operations. Take actions to protect yourself from smoke!

C: If you are physically unable to use the stairs. Take actions to protect yourself from smoke! If you are located on the fire floor or on the floor immediately above the fire floor, you may require rescue. Call the fire emergency number and provide details of your situation.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

in your home?

Right now, there are probably dozens of hazardous materials in your home which could be very dangerous if you have a fire, or could cause fire if they are improperly stored or used!

Protect yourself and your family by becoming familiar with hazardous materials in your home!

☞ **Begin your tour in the bedroom:** The last place you'd expect to find hazardous materials. Do you have any aerosol cans of hairspray, deodorant, or other personal-care products? Hair spray is highly flammable. Never use it near a heat source or open flame. All aerosol cans explode if exposed to high heat. Separate empty spray cans from your regular trash!

☞ Nail polish is also flammable, as are many other fluids that give off strong fumes. Nail polish and nail-polish remover, as well as cotton balls or tissues used to apply them, burn easily if exposed to flame or high heat.

☞ The fumes given off by mothballs are flammable. Mothball containers should be sealed tightly.

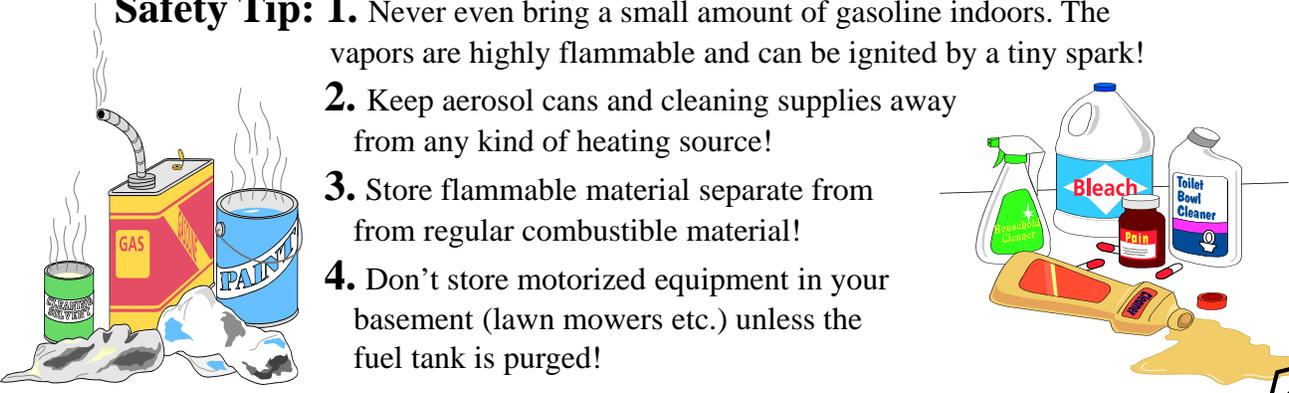
☞ Disinfectants, such as toilet bowl cleaners, are also flammable. Drain-cleaning fluids and powders are extremely caustic and can cause severe burns on contact with the skin. Follow the instructions for use printed on the labels of these products carefully.

☞ **The kitchen:** Cleaning products should be stored and used with care. Floor and furniture polishes, spot removers, and oven cleaners are flammable liquids that can ignite if exposed to high heat or flame.

☞ If you are unsure if a product is flammable, read the label. If the listed ingredients include petroleum products or methyl spirits, treat the substance as if it is flammable.

Safety Tip:

1. Never even bring a small amount of gasoline indoors. The vapors are highly flammable and can be ignited by a tiny spark!
2. Keep aerosol cans and cleaning supplies away from any kind of heating source!
3. Store flammable material separate from regular combustible material!
4. Don't store motorized equipment in your basement (lawn mowers etc.) unless the fuel tank is purged!



The illustration shows a yellow gas can with a lit burner, a blue paint can, and a green aerosol can on the left. On the right, there is a bottle of bleach, a bottle of toilet bowl cleaner, a bottle of pain reliever, and a spilled liquid from a bottle.

**TAKE A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TOUR OF
YOUR HOME**

FIRE EXITS

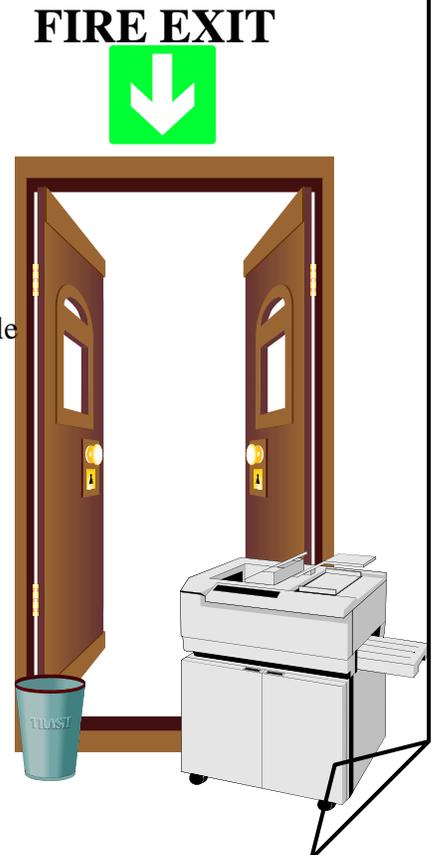
During fire inspections it often has been found that many fire exits are blocked.

- ☞ Measures which caused these *SAFETY VIOLATIONS* were taken in the interest of improving security, but have created extreme hazards to the building occupants.
- ☞ Do not condone practices intending to improve barracks security, which in fact substitutes the threat of multiple deaths or injuries from fire.
- ☞ Security measures *MAY NOT VIOLATE FIRE AND SAFETY REGULATIONS* and/or prevent rapid evacuation of personnel in case of fire!
- ☞ In some instances, fire exits were blocked by heavy chains or hasps with padlocks. These locking devices are extremely hazardous and are *SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED!*
- ☞ Obstruction or construction across hallways, preventing the free access to any emergency exit is *PROHIBITED!*

This is true for all structures where people reside or gather, including Troop Billets, Clubs, Theaters and Dining Facilities, etc.

The term “Fire Exit” includes the actual exit door, exit access and exit discharge!

- Safety Tip**
- 1.** Keep hallways and stairwells free of obstructions at all times!
 - 2.** Hallways and stairwells are your primary escape routes, they are designed to be fire resistant!
 - 3.** Don't compromise the fire resistance of your escape route by storing combustible and/or flammable materials in hallways or stairwells!
 - 4.** Doors in hallways and stairwells are fire doors, they are designed to withstand fire for a certain amount of time!
 - 5.** Keep your fire doors closed and in an good working condition!
 - 6.** Establish an opening and closing procedure to ensure that all exit doors are unlocked as soon as the building is occupied!
 - 7.** Ensure all exit doors are in a good working condition!



**DON'T CREATE A TRAP -
KEEP EXITS UNOBSTRUCTED**

SMOKING

Fires can start almost anywhere, but they usually start in the busiest areas of the home, the kitchen, the living room, and they are usually caused by carelessness.

- ☞ Smoking and matches are the prime fire starters in homes today.
- ☞ Even if you don't smoke, chances are that your friends do and it's a good idea to have sufficient large, deep, noncombustible ashtrays on hand.
- ☞ Empty your ashtrays before they get too full, taking special care to inspect them before going to bed for the night.
- ☞ **DON'T** empty ashtrays into waste paper baskets until you are sure that there are no glowing remnants remaining.
- ☞ Make it a rule that no one smokes in bed or even in an easy chair when they are tired. Too many people have died because they ignored the rule:

DON'T SMOKE IN BED

- Safety Tip 1.** Don't smoke in bed, or around any flammable materials!
- 2.** Wherever you smoke at home, have large ashtrays handy!
 - 3.** Never smoke when you are tired and likely to doze. Fire won't always wake you up!
 - 4.** Only use non-combustible ashtrays!

LEARN NOT TO BURN



DON'T SMOKE IN BED - YOUR SLEEP MIGHT LAST FOREVER

MATCHES AND LIGHTERS-TOOLS NOT TOYS

FACT: EACH YEAR, hundreds of children die in home fires started by children who were using matches or lighters!

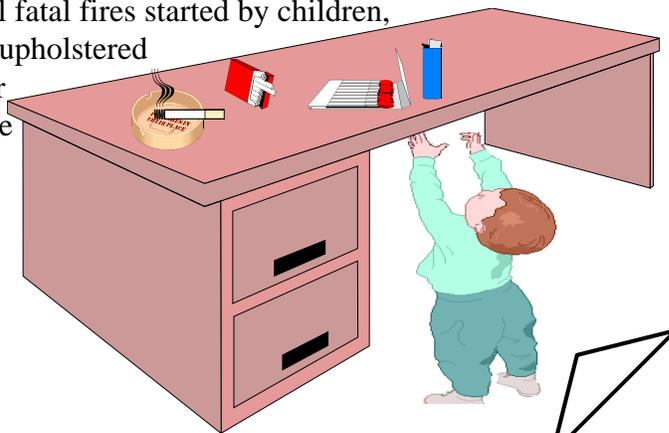
Many of the children who started these fires were merely curious about fire, children have a natural curiosity about fire. If your children express curiosity about fire, or if you find they have been playing with matches or lighters, respond immediately. Explain to your child that matches and lighters are tools for adults to be used carefully. Find safe ways for your child to participate in **your** use of fire. Let them blow out candles, for example, or put charcoal in the grill before you light it. As children get older, they can learn how to use matches and lighters safely, but only under adult supervision.

CHILDREN AS YOUNG as two have started fires with matches and lighters.

Safety Tip:

- 1.** If you live with children, treat matches and lighters as you would treat a dangerous weapon: Store them up high, out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet!
- 2.** Use only lighters with child-resistant features. These lighters are difficult for most young children to operate. But don't take chances. Store these lighters out of children's reach as well!
- 3.** Teach very young children to tell an adult if they see matches or lighters. School-age children should be taught to bring matches or lighter to an adult, removing them immediately from the reach of younger siblings!

4. Don't Leave Children Unattended, UNSUPERVISED CHILDREN can sometimes get their hands on matches and lighters, even if they are well hidden. More than half of all fatal fires started by children, involved bedding, mattresses, or upholstered furniture. Never leave matches or lighters in a bedroom or any place where children may go without supervision!



KEEP MATCHES AND LIGHTERS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

CANDLES

Candles are not permitted in government buildings except public assembly places and family housing units

- Keep candles away from combustibles (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, and flammable decorations).
- Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Use candleholders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, made of non-combustible material and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candleholders on a sturdy uncluttered surface and do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles up high out of reach of children.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle.
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedroom.
- Store candles, matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Safety Tip:

Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

DON'T RUIN THE PARTY

Summertime is high season for outdoor parties. Whenever you want to grill outdoors, make sure that you have a safe place.

- ☞ **German forest areas are prohibited for any type of open fire.**
- ☞ **NEVER** use flammable liquids such as gasoline or kerosene to ignite the charcoal. Use paper or kindling, or commercial charcoal lighter to start a fire.
- ☞ Once the fire has started, **NEVER leave** the burner unattended!
- ☞ **NEVER** freshen the fire with additional charcoal lighter!
- ☞ When finished grilling, extinguish the still glowing embers by using water. **NEVER** carry the burner with glowing embers into your apartment or into the building, as the burning charcoal is producing carbon monoxide, a deadly poisonous gas !!! **Adequate ventilation is a must!**

Cooking with a fondue pot may add a festive or elegant atmosphere to a meal, but it also requires special care!

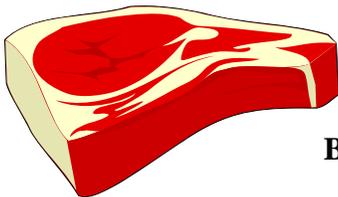
- ☞ **NEVER** fill an alcohol burner more than half full, **PREVENT** any alcohol spillage onto the tablecloth.
- ☞ Set the table prior to igniting the burner. Once the burner is ignited, keep children away and **NEVER leave the burner unattended!**
- ☞ Always use a heat resistant tray under the burner and be certain that the flame is out and the liquid cooled before refilling.

Cooking with LP gas grills:

- ☞ Read owner manual and operating instructions carefully.
- ☞ Check hoses and valve connection often. In case of a leakage the maintenance and repair should be done by authorized personnel only.
- ☞ Only use approved equipment on your gas grill.
- ☞ Transport and store propane cylinders in an upright position with the protection cover and never where temperatures can reach 125 degrees F.

USE OF BARBECUE GRILLS OR OTHER OPEN FLAME DEVICES:

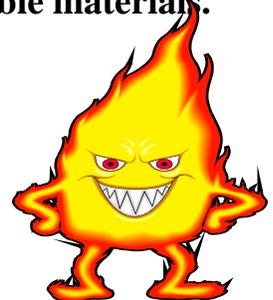
The use of barbecue grills or other open flame devices is **PROHIBITED ON ANY BALCONY and/or within five feet of any structure or flammable materials.**



Never leave them unattended!

BE CAREFUL - - - DON'T RUIN THE PARTY - - -

LEARN NOT TO BURN



FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

Lack of ordinary care in the use of flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, and alcohol is a major cause of fire deaths. Proper handling and storage of flammable liquids cannot be overemphasized. Knowing the hazards and understanding the precautions that should be followed will minimize the dangers.

Gasoline

Is highly flammable when its vapors are mixed in the proper proportion with air; they will burn violently. It is possible for vapors to flow in an invisible stream for considerable distance, generally near floor level because they are heavier than air, (pits, depressions and areas up to 18 inches from the floor are therefore defined as hazardous areas). The vapors may ignite on contact with a source of ignition such as an electric spark, carelessly disposed cigarette butts, the pilot light of a gas stove, furnace, or water heater.

Storing gasoline

- ☞ Store gasoline and other flammable liquids only in metal containers, preferably safety cans.
- ☞ Keep the container tightly sealed.
- ☞ Store gasoline in a well ventilated area, away from any source of ignition.
- ☞ Do not store gasoline in your basement.
- ☞ Store only a minimal amount of gasoline.

Safety Tip: 1. Always fuel power mowers and other motorized equipment outside where there is adequate ventilation to disperse the vapors.

2. Use a funnel to prevent spilling or splashing.

3. Fuel engines only when they are cool. The heat can ignite the gasoline vapors! - **Cool it before you fuel it!** -

4. **Gasoline has only one function: To fuel an engine!**

Any other use of gasoline is dangerous and carries the risk of severe burns. Thousands of people are injured each year when they misuse gasoline!

5. Only store completely purged motorized equipment in basements or other occupied structures!



Remember Gasoline Is Made To Explode!

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND WIRING

Electrical appliances are needed every day by everybody. But are you using an appliance which is approved? Before buying appliances for your home, check to see that it bears the UL label. UL is nothing new for you. But, since you are living in Germany, what should you look for when buying a German-type electrical appliance? In Germany you have the "Vereinigung Deutscher Elektrotechniker", short "VDE", and/or "CE". Any electrical appliance showing these labels, you can buy without worry. "VDE" is the same institution for Germany as the UL for the States.

Still, any appliance, specifically older ones, should be inspected for frayed cords and cracked plugs. If you find them faulty, have these parts immediately repaired or replaced.

Your home has overload protection. If you blow a fuse, don't repair and/or bridge this one. If you are forced to use an extension cord, it may be convenient for the time being; however, it is no substitute for permanent wiring! If you must use an extension cord, be sure that it is the same size and type of cord as the appliance that it is used with.

Safety Tip: 1. Don't overload an extension cord!

2. Never run any wiring under carpets, or through door ways, avoid placing electrical cords to close to a heat source!

3. Never plug 110 V appliances into 220 V outlets!

4. Unplug appliances like curling irons, flat irons, toasters, coffee machines etc.. even when they are switched off!

5. If you use a cable reel, unwind it completely!

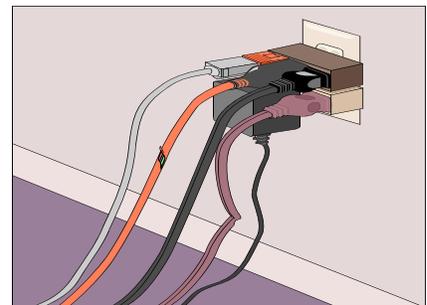
6. REMEMBER: All electrical appliances (except those which have to run continuously, refrigerators etc.) left unattended shall be disconnected from electrical circuits. Make it your rule to unplug appliances if they are not actually being used!

7. Be aware of the warning signs. You can spot many electrical problems before they cause a fire or shock!

8. Recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers!

9. Feeling a tingle when you touch an electrical appliance, or discoloration of wall outlets!

10. A burning smell or unusual odor coming from an appliance or wiring!



If you spot a warning sign, don't wait for an accident!

Unplug a malfunctioning appliance immediately!

Call an electrician to correct the problem!

NEVER OVERLOAD AN EXTENSION CORD OR ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT!

**Fire Department
USAG Schweinfurt**



**Keep this
information in Mind**

**DON'T LET
FIRE COME
TO YOUR
HOME**



Make Your Home Fire Safe - Hunt For Fire Hazard Checklists

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Hunt For Fire Hazards



Cooking equipment:

Cooking equipment is estimated to be associated with more than 100,000 fires annually, and almost 400 deaths, and 5,000 injuries. Gas cooking equipment accounts for about 30,000 fires, and electric cooking equipment for about 55,000 fires.

You should be able to respond "yes" to the following safety statements.

	Yes	No
1. The storage area above the stove is free of flammable and combustible items.	___	___
2. Short or tight fitting sleeves, and tight fitting shirts, robes, gowns, etc., are worn while cooking.	___	___
3. Items that could attract children (e.g. cookies and candy) are not kept above the range and are kept out of the immediate area.	___	___
4. The stove is not left unattended when cooking especially when the burner is turned to a high setting.	___	___

Recommendations:

- Never place or store pot holders, plastic utensils, towels and other non-cooking equipment on or near the range because these items can be ignited.
- Roll up or fasten long loose sleeves with pins or elastic bands while cooking. Do not reach across a range while cooking. Long loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire than are short sleeves. Long loose sleeves are also more apt to catch on pot handles, overturning pots and pans and cause scalds.
- Do not place candy or cookies over top of ranges. This will reduce the attraction kids may have for climbing on cooking equipment, thus reducing the possibility of their clothing catching fire.
- Keep constant vigilance on any cooking that is require above the "keep warm" setting.

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Hunt For Fire Hazards



Cigarettes, Matches and Lighters:

Each year more than 200 deaths are associated with fires started by cigarette lighters. About two thirds of these result from children playing with lighters. Most of the victims are under five years old.

You should be able to answer "yes" to the safety statements below.

	Yes	No
1. Cigarette lighters and matches are kept out of the reach of children	___	___
2. Cigarette lighters are never used to entertain a child.	___	___
3. Ashtrays are made from noncombustible material.	___	___
4. Ashtrays are emptied regularly.	___	___

Recommendations:

- Keep lighters and matches out of sight and out of the reach of children. Children as young as two years old are capable of lighting cigarette lighters and matches.
- Never encourage or allow a child to play with a lighter or to think of it as a toy. Do not use it as a source of amusement for a child. Once their curiosity is aroused, children may seek out a lighter and try to light it.
- Always check to see that cigarettes are extinguished before emptying ashtrays. Stubs that are still burning can ignite trash.

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Hunt For Fire Hazards



Materials That Burn

Your home is filled with materials and products that will burn if ignited. Upholstered furniture, clothing, drapery fabrics, and liquids such as gasoline and volatile solvents are involved in many injury-causing fires each year. Most of these fires could be prevented.

Upholstered Furniture

In 1989, there were 18,600 residential fires associated with upholstered furniture; about 900 people lost their lives. About one half of these fires were caused by smoking materials.

You should be able to respond "yes" to the safety statements below.

	Yes	No
1. Upholstered furniture fabrics made from vinyl, wool or thermoplastic fibers are generally selected for safety reasons.	___	___
2. I check thoroughly after parties for ashes or unextinguished cigarettes that may have fallen behind and between cushions and under furniture.	___	___

Recommendations:

- Look for furniture designed to reduce the likelihood of furniture fire from cigarettes. Much of the furniture manufactured today has significantly greater resistance to ignition by cigarettes than upholstered furniture manufactured 10 to 15 years ago. This is particularly true of furniture manufactured to comply with the requirements of the Upholstered Furniture Action Council's (UFAC) Voluntary Action Program. Such upholstered furniture may be identified by the gold colored tag on the furniture item. The legend on the front of the tag in red letters states "Important Consumer Safety Information from UFAC."
- Always check the furniture where smokers have been sitting for improperly discarded smoking materials. Ashes and lighted cigarettes can fall unnoticed behind or between cushions or under furniture.
- Do not place or leave ashtrays on the arms of chairs where they can be knocked off.
- Look for fabrics made predominantly from thermoplastic fibers (nylon, polyester, acrylic, olefin) because they resist ignition by burning cigarettes better than cellulosic-fabrics (rayon or cotton). In general, the higher the thermoplastic content, the greater the resistance to cigarette ignition.

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Hunt For Fire Hazards



Mattresses and Bedding

Smoldering fires in mattresses and bedding materials caused by cigarettes are a major cause of deaths in residential fires. In 1989 over 35,000 mattress/bedding fires caused about 700 deaths.

You should be able to respond "yes" to the following safety statements.

	Yes	No
1. "No smoking in bed" is a rule that is practiced in my home.	___	___
2. Heaters, ash trays, smoking materials and other fire sources are located away from bedding.	___	___

Recommendations:

- DO NOT smoke in bed. Smoking in bed is a major cause of accidental fire deaths in homes.
- Locate heaters or other fire sources three feet from the bed to prevent the bed catching on fire.

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Hunt For Fire Hazards



Flammable Liquids

One of the major causes of household fires is flammable liquids. These include gasoline, acetone benzene, lacquer thinner, alcohol, turpentine, contact cements, paint thinner, kerosene, and charcoal lighter fluid. The most dangerous of all is gasoline.

You should be able to respond "yes" to the following safety statements.

	Yes	No
1. Flammable liquids are stored in properly labeled, tightly closed non-glass containers.	___	___
2. These products are stored away from heaters, furnaces, water heaters, ranges, and other gas appliances.	___	___
3. Flammable liquids are stored out of reach of children.	___	___

Recommendations

- Take extra precautions in storing and using flammable liquids, such as gasoline, paint thinners, etc. They produce invisible explosive vapors that can ignite by a small spark at considerable distances from the flammable substance. **Store outside the house.**

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Hunt For Fire Hazards



Early Warning and Escape

Even when you have complied with every item in this Home Fire Safety Checklist, you still need to have a plan for early warning and escape in case a fire does occur.

Many fire deaths and fire injuries are actually caused by smoke and gases. Victims inhale smoke and poisonous gases that rise ahead of the flames. Survival depends on being warned as early as possible and having an escape plan.

You should be able to respond "yes" to the following statements.

Smoke Detectors

	Yes	No
1. At least one smoke detector is located on every floor of my home.	___	___
2. Smoke detectors are placed near bedrooms, either on the ceiling or 6-12 inches below the ceiling on the wall.	___	___
3. Smoke detectors are tested AT least once a month (battery smoke detectors weekly) and are kept in working condition at all times.	___	___
4. Batteries are replaced at least annually. Schedule battery replacement for the same day you change your clock from daylight to standard time in the fall.	___	___
5. Batteries are never disconnected.	___	___
6. The detector has a distinct warning signal that can be heard whether asleep or awake.	___	___

Make Your Home Fire Safe

Hunt For Fire Hazards



Escape Plan

Planning ahead, rehearsing, thinking, and acting clearly are keys to surviving a fire.
How prepared are you?

You should be able to respond "yes" to the following statements.

	Yes	No
1. The family has an escape plan and an alternate escape plan.	___	___
2. Escape routes and plans are rehearsed periodically.	___	___
3. The escape plan includes choosing a place safely outside the house where the family can meet to be sure everyone got out safely.	___	___
4. Your secondary exit (balcony or window) leads to a paved road. The secondary escape rout (refuge area) of your "Evacuation Plan" could be a window or balcony, ensure they are leading to a paved road. Protect your self from smoke.	___	___
5. The fire department number is posted on every telephone. DSN: 117 / Civ.(09721)-87711	___	___

Recommendations:

Establish advanced family planning for a fast escape. It is an important partner with smoke detectors and it will prepare you for a fire emergency.

Include small children as a part of the discussion and rehearsal. It is especially important to make sure they understand that they must escape; they can't hide from fire under a bed or in a closet.

Your life and that of your family can be saved by foresight, planning, discussing and rehearsal.

PRODUCT SAFETY, IT'S NO ACCIDENT!