

Matches and careless smoking habits

Careless discarding of lighted matches and smoking materials is responsible for about twenty per cent of all fires from known causes.

A burning match, tobacco debris or a cigarette carelessly left burning may start a disastrous fire taking heavy toll of lives and property. Remember, one little thoughtless act may take your home - even your life!

Here are a few common sense precaution:

1. Keep all matches out of reach of children. Matches should be kept in non-combustible containers.

2. Have plenty of ash trays conveniently placed in all rooms.

3. Be sure your lighted matches or smokes are completely out before you discard them.

4. Don't smoke in bed.

5. Don't strike matches in closets, garages or other place where flammable materials, dust or vapors may be ignited.

Faulty wiring and apparatus

More than one in ten fires of known causes is of electrical origin. Circuits are designed to carry certain loads. The blowing of a fuse is a danger signal that the circuit is overloaded or defective.

The use of a fuse of larger amperage than that for which the circuit was designed destroys this protective feature. An overload of current may heat the wire to the point of starting a fire. Be sure your fuses are of correct amperage for your circuits - 15 amperes usually are right. Don't tamper with this 'safety valve'.

A few common sense precautions:

1. Employ a skilled electrician to repair or extend wiring when this is necessary.

2. Buy electric appliances and cords bearing a recognized seal of approval.

3. Don't string wires under rugs, over hooks, or in any exposed place. Wear may make them dangerous.

Heating and cooking stoves, etc.

One out of every ten fires is caused by faulty chimneys, flues cooking or heating stoves, furnaces, carelessness with fireplaces or hot ashes, or sparks on roofs, etc.

Most frequent causes of destructive fire in heating plants or appliances are: sub-standard equipment, incorrect installation and construction, lack of care in maintenance and unsafe operation.

All heating plants, pipes or appliances should be at least 18 inches away from any wall or burnable material. Heaters, including stoves, should be on insulated metal, cement or other incombustible bases. Walls and ceilings near stoves should be protected by asbestos sheeting or other insulating material.

Clean chimneys every year, and repair promptly when cracks or loose mortar appear. Never 'force' a furnace to get more heat. Consult your heating man about increasing its efficiency safety.

Do not throw hot ashes into metal containers - never into wooden boxes.

Kerosene and carelessness

One in ten fires is caused by careless use of kerosene, gasoline, or other flammable fluids, and by carelessness in handling candles, open lights, lamps, open gas jets, torches, ect. Pouring kerosene on wood or coal fires is extremely dangerous.

Using gasoline, benzene, naphtha and other flammable liquids in the house for cleaning or similar pur-

poses causes many tragedies each year.

These fluids vaporize when exposed to air and may quickly produce an explosive mixture that is readily ignited by a match, pilot light, sparking motor or even a static spark developed from rubbing textiles together. Or the quickly spreading vapor may be exploded by a smoker or a fire in another

room

You can never be safe using flammable, explosive fluids in your house - or in filling kerosene or gasoline stoves or lamps while they are lighted.

Use only approved portable kerosene heaters, those complying with the Canadian Standards Association standard as tested by an accredited lab: Canadian Stan-

dards Association (CSA), Underwriter's Laboratories of Canada (ULC) or Warnock Hersey Professional Services Ltd.

If your clothing catches fire do not run. Running fans the flames and increases them. Lie down on the floor and roll, in a rug if you can. Don't wear fuzzy, filmy, flammable clothing around a stove or range.

What to do if fire strikes

Learn now how to turn in an alarm that will summon your fire department quickly.

Find the nearest fire alarm box now and read its instructions. In case of a fire, stay at the box to direct firemen when they arrive.

Learn your fire emergency telephone number. Write it down near the telephone for emergency use. Dial 911 if your community uses this universal emergency number. If you don't have the number handy tell the operator: "I want to report a fire", and give the address distinctly.

Give your Fire Department a chance early. A tiny blaze, uncontrolled, can become a conflagration. It's the first few minutes that

count.

Smoke detectors

While a smoke detector won't prevent or extinguish fires in your home it can save lives.

It can alert you and your family to the presence of smoke and fire and allow you to escape to safety and then call the Fire Department.

Fire Chiefs across Canada recommend some form of early warning device. Be sure that the unit or units you install have been inspected and approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada.

And follow the maker's instructions for installation, maintenance and periodic testing.

PRACTICE



DON'T BE CARELESS WITH MATCHES!

Keep matches and lighters beyond the reach of little children. Don't smoke in bed and always be sure all cigarettes are out in your home and out of doors.



Township of Tay
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