

# Know When to Go - React Fast To Fire

## There are only seconds or minutes to react to a fire

A hostile fire occurs about every eight minutes in Canada.

And with 80 per cent of all Canadian fire death occurring in the home, it important to know exactly what you should do when you discover a fire.

Depending on the type of fire, there are three choices you can make.

✓ A controllable fire:

If pot of cooking oil erupts into flames on a hot stove, you may be able to turn off the stove and slide a tight-fitting lid over the pot.

✓ A small-sized fire:

A fire extinguisher may be used, but the operator should

be close to an exit to allow quick escape if the fire gets out of control.

✓ A rapidly spreading fire and dense black smoke:

Swift action by warning everyone to evacuate would be the right sequence of actions.

In such cases a pre-practiced fire escape plan can be put into immediate action.

### Essentials of a fire escape plan are:

✓ Identify two exits from every room;

✓ Feel the door with the back of your hand to ensure it is not hot, then open the door cautiously; if fire and

smoke are suspect on the other side use your second exit to escape;

✓ Crawl low under the smoke;

✓ Get out as quickly as possible. Everyone should meet a previously agreed upon spot outside the door and

✓ Call the fire department from a neighbour's phone.

**These articles are supplied by Fire Prevention Canada.**

### Major causes of fires in Canada and related losses over a 10-year period from 1985-1994

Major Cause	Approx. # of Fires	Deaths	Injuries
• Smoking Materials	39,750	969	9,662
• Cooking Equipment	84,649	453	7,584
• Heating Equipment	67,264	372	2,959
• Matches, lighters	33,535	324	2,739
• Electrical Dist.	82,414	251	3,146
• Smokers	34,819	236	1,423
• Welding	16,001	47	1,042
• Equipment			
• All other/miscellaneous	294,208	1,944	12,837

## Don't give fires a chance to start - remove combustibles from basement, attic

Knowing where the majority of fires start and what causes them can help prevent fires in your home.

### Kitchen:

- Do not leave cooking unattended.
- Use oven mitts and don't wear loose cloth-

ing with long sleeves when cooking.

• If a fire does start in a pot or pan, do not attempt to remove it from the stove. The movement can fan the flames and spread the fire and the pan will likely be very hot causing you to drop it.

In both cases you are placing

yourself at a great risk.

• Check for damaged or cracked cords on kettles and toasters and have their internal thermostats checked if they have been dropped or damaged.

• Buy appliances that shut off automatically. Use a kitchen timer to remind yourself to turn off burners and the oven.

### Living Room:

• Provide fire screens for fireplaces as flying coals or sparks can easily start a fire.

• Do not use extension cords in place of permanent wiring.

• Provide sufficient electrical outlet for your needs.

• If there are smokers in your home check the furniture for fallen cigarettes or embers before you leave the room.

• Never leave a lit cigarette unattended in an ashtray.

### Bedroom:

• All electrical appliances in use in the bedroom should be checked regularly for safe operation this includes electric blankets and heating pads.

• A smoke alarm should be installed in every bedroom due to the fact that there are electrical appliances in most bedrooms.

• Never smoke in bed.

### Basement and Attic:

• Remove all unnecessary combustibles from the basement and attic areas.

• Have a maintenance person check all furnace safety controls, the chimney and flue connections for leaks and clean the furnace at least once a year.

• Have your wiring checked periodically.


• Never store gasoline in basements, pits or other confined areas. Gasoline must be stored in areas that are well-ventilated.

### Garage and Workshop:

• Flammable materials, such as thinners, gasoline, paints and industrial cleaners should be properly covered, stored neatly and kept away from ignition sources such as space heaters.

• Keep your work areas clean. Do not give a fire a place to start.

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**Know When to Go!**



**REACT FAST TO FIRE!**

FIRE PREVENTION 1  
OCTOBER 5-11, 1997

**GET OUT Stay Out**

**Remember the Following Steps!**

- **Raise the Alarm** - Shoot to warn others. Leave the building immediately.
- **A Hot Door** is a warning. NEVER open a door without checking for heat. If it is warm, leave it closed and open a window.
- **Heat & Deadly Gases** are the main killers. If you cannot leave an upper room by a window, close the door and wait by the window for rescue.
- **Tell the Fire Fighters** if anyone remains in the building.
- **Never Go Back** for any reason whatsoever. Never risk a life in an attempt to save personal possessions.

**REMEMBER** - an hour of planning may Save A Life

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