

# FIRE IS

## FAST!

In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. A fire can double in size every 30 seconds.

## HOT!

Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level.

## DARK!

Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.

## DEADLY!

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Modern houses burn 8 times faster and can produce up to 200 times the amount of smoke than house fires 50 years ago? The increased use of synthetic fibres means today **you have less than two minutes** to get out. A working smoke alarm can save your life.



## TOP 5 CAUSES OF HOUSE FIRES

1. Cooking
2. Heating equipment
3. Faulty wiring (electrical)
4. Smoking
5. Candles (open flame)

*Source: nfpa.org*

**What's the number one way to protect your family if you have a house fire?**



# HAVE A WORKING SMOKE ALARM!

When there is a fire, heat, flames and smoke spread fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

*The Ontario Fire Marshal's office reported 2022 saw **133 house fire-related deaths, the highest number in the province in 20 years.***

Yet just over **one in three residents** have a working smoke alarm.



Sources: Ontario Fire Marshal's Office; Statistics Canada



- Install smoke alarms in main living areas and every bedroom or outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Don't forget your basement.
- Install alarms on the ceiling or where the manufacturer recommends.
- Test all smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.
- Change the batteries each spring and fall when the time changes.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- If you are buying a new smoke alarm, choose a photoelectric alarm. It uses a light source that can detect smoke and fire faster.
- The fine for not having a working smoke alarm is \$195 per alarm.

# IF YOU HEAR A SMOKE ALARM AND SMELL SMOKE



- Get out of the house and call 911.
- Close all doors to slow down the spread of fire.
- Only use a fire extinguisher if the fire is confined to a small area and not growing and the room isn't filled with smoke. To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS.

**P** Pull the pin. Hold it so the nozzle is pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.

**A** Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.

**S** Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.

**S** Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.



**Know when to go.** If the fire shows any sign of spreading or smoke increases, get out.