
Other Fire Safety Tips:

- Don't leave cooking unattended. If you leave the kitchen, turn off the heat. Don't place anything near the stove that can catch on fire.
- Store flammable liquids away from heat sources.
- When using portable heaters, place them well away from newspapers, curtains, bedding and clothing.
- Get rid of all combustible trash before it catches fire.

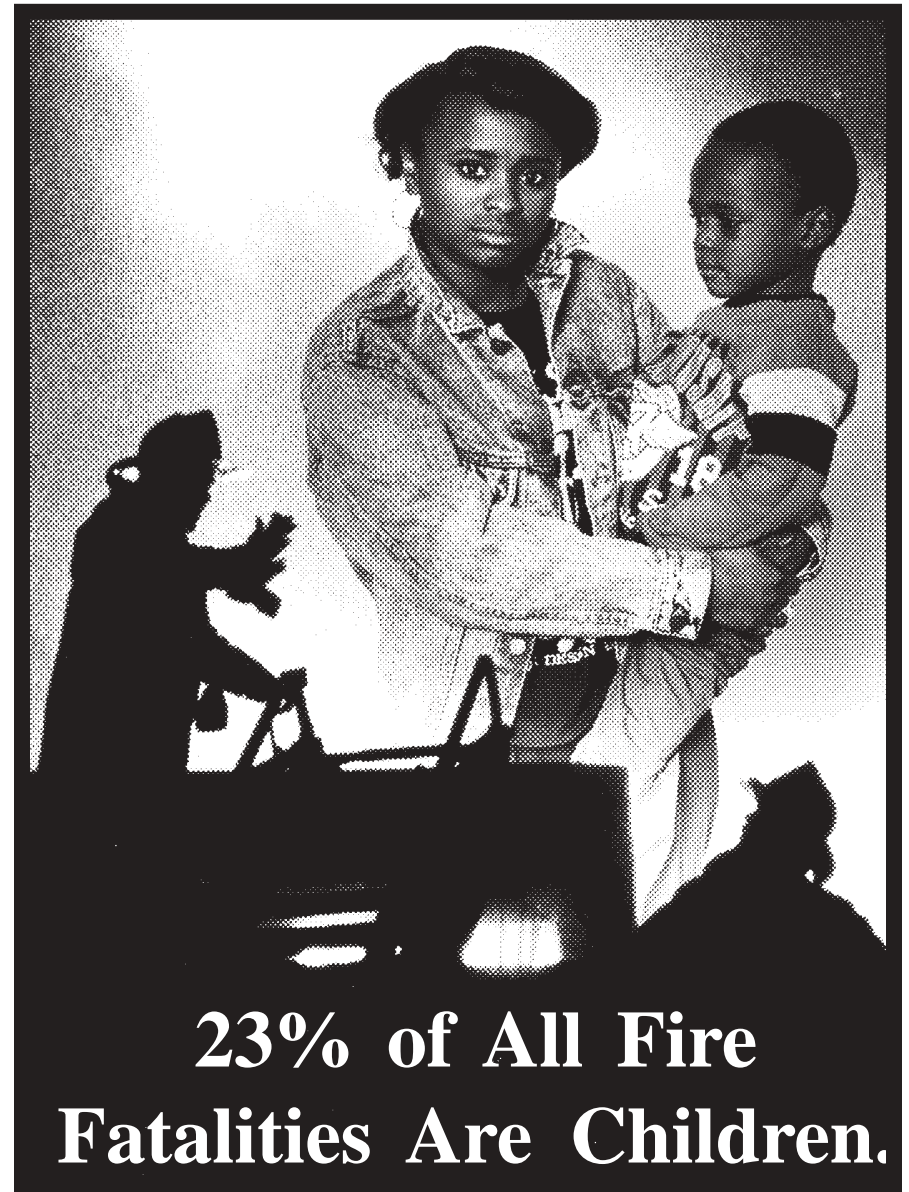
Following these suggestions will greatly reduce the chances of a fire starting in your home. Shouldn't you take some time now to check your home for fire hazards for your family's sake? Remember - fires can start suddenly, spread rapidly, and they can result in horrible burns and even death. Don't wait until it's too late. Get busy and protect your family now!

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
James E. McGreevey
Governor



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
Lawrence Petrillo
Director



**23% of All Fire
Fatalities Are Children.**

*Don't Wait Until It's Too Late!
Protect Your Family From The
Threat of Accidental House Fires!*

Each year, more New Jersey children under the age of ten die because of house fires than because of any disease. Far too often, we pick up newspapers and read headlines like:

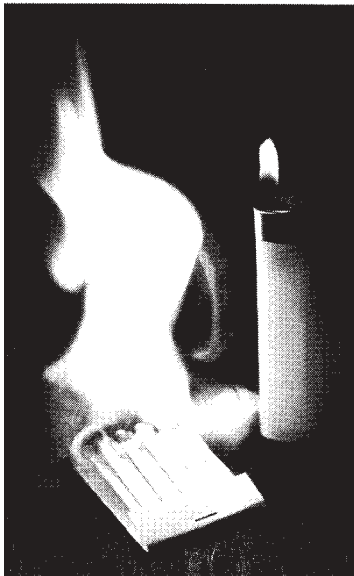
Boy Playing With Lighter Sets Fire To Family Home

Row House Fire Leaves 30 Homeless

4-Year Old Dies in Accidental Blaze

Even though headlines like these repeat themselves again and again, people read them and think: "Yes, it's terrible, but it's not something that's going to happen to me." **DON'T KID YOURSELF!** Fires can and do strike without warning just about anywhere! And some of the most tragic fires of all take the lives of the very children who accidentally started them.

Kids are curious, kids are smart, and they like to imitate grownups, but they don't understand how dangerous a match can be. Very young children don't understand what a fire is capable of doing, and older children who do understand have no idea of how quickly a fire can get out of control.



**Supervise Your Children
Carefully And Take
Precautions to
Prevent Tragic
House Fires.**

- **Keep Matches and Lighters On A High Shelf That Children Can't Reach**

Children are fascinated by matches and lighters and can be tempted into playing with fire at almost any time. Parents who leave matches within a child's reach are inviting tragedy.

- **Get A Smoke Detector And Make Sure It Works**

Getting a smoke detector is probably the most important step that you can take to protect your family and home from fire. Statistics prove that having a properly working smoke detector in your home **DOUBLES** your chances of surviving an accidental house fire.

Most fatal fires take place at night. When you're asleep, smoke doesn't wake you - it **KEEPS** you from waking up, because it contains carbon monoxide, which causes you to lose consciousness. 80% of all fire deaths take place in homes that don't have working smoke detectors. That's why you should have one on every level of your home. Then, if a fire does break out, the detector will wake you up in time to save your life.

And don't forget: you have to replace the battery in your smoke detector once a year. It won't do you any good to have a smoke detector if it's not working because of a dead battery.

- **Be Extra Careful While Smoking**

Careless smoking is the number one leading cause of fire deaths in both New Jersey and the United States. If you live with people who smoke, you have to watch them carefully, especially late at night, when it's easy to fall asleep. Don't ever let anyone smoke in bed or while reclining on comfortable, upholstered furniture. It's just too easy to fall asleep without meaning to. Also, you should install extra smoke detectors in smokers' bedrooms and any other areas that they spend time in. These extra detectors can be life savers if a fire accidentally starts while a smoker is asleep.

- **Don't Overload Electrical Circuits**

Short circuits and heat buildup in electrical wiring can touch off deadly house fires. Check wiring, extension cords and appliances for defects, and don't run any wires under your rugs.