



HOME FIRES

Prepare and Share

Here are some tips to help you avoid home fires. Please share this information with family and friends.

- **Fire is FAST!** In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.
- **Fire is 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. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.
- **Fire is DARK!** Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.
- **Fire is DEADLY!** Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a 3-to-1 ratio.
- Find two ways to get out of each room in the event the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke.
- Make sure that windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly and that security bars can be properly opened.
- Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters.
- If your clothes catch fire, **stop, drop, and roll** – stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll, over and over or back and forth, until the fire is out. If you or someone else cannot stop, drop, and roll, smother the flames with a blanket or towel.

For more information on how to prepare, please visit the FEMA website at [ready.gov/home-fires](https://www.ready.gov/home-fires)



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergencies: 911

Non-Emergencies: 860-523-5203

Fire Marshal's Office & Prevention:
860-561-8320

westhartfordct.gov/fire

