

**Orange County  
Emergency Services**

www.readyorange.org

**Making a Plan**

When making a fire escape plan, prepare a floor plan of your home showing at least two ways out of each room. If you have a second or third floor, easy-to-use window escape ladders are available at many home improvement and hardware stores. Agree on a fixed location outdoors where family members are to gather.

The important thing to remember is to stay together and away from the fire. Call 9-1-1 from another location. Make certain that no one goes back in the burning building.

**Related Guides:**

- After a Disaster
- Children and Disasters
- Generator Usage
- Insurance
- Thunderstorms and Lightning Preparedness

To contact Emergency Services:

PO Box 8181,  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Telephone:  
919-245-6100

Fax: 919-732-8130

24-hour Phone:  
919-732-5063

# Fire Prevention Guide

## Frequently Found Hazards

### Smoking:

- Never smoke in bed.
- Use large, deep ashtrays and empty frequently.
- Wet ashes before dumping into a trash can.

### Clothes Dryers:

- Never leave home with the clothes dryer running.
- Dryers must be vented to the outside, not into a wall or attic.
- Clean the lint screen and dryer vent frequently to keep the airway clear.
- Do not put clothing with flammable liquid spills in the dryer.

### Electrical Hazards:

- Do not overload an outlet and do not use extensions that use more than one socket.
- Make sure light bulb wattage matches or is lower than lamps.
- If lights dim when appliances are activated, turn something off.

### Space Heaters:

- Closely monitor all use of space heaters.
- Keep away from flammable materials

## Kitchen Safety

Kitchens often are the places fires start.

- Never pour water on a grease fire; turn off the stove and cover the pan with a lid, or close the oven door.
- Keep pot handles on the stove pointing to the back, and always watch young children in the kitchen.

Make sure children know what to do in a fire. Ask them about fire drills at school and how you can prevent fires at home. Keep them safe by teaching them not to play with matches or lighters.

- Do not store items on the stovetop or in the oven.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Wear tight fitting clothes when cooking and remember if your clothes catch fire to **STOP, DROP, AND ROLL.**
- Be sure your stove is not located under a window with curtains hung.
- Clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly, and wipe up spilled grease as soon as the surface of the stove is cool.



## Fire Prevention Equipment

Install smoke detectors on every level of your home

- Replace batteries each time Daylight Savings Time begins or ends.
- Inexpensive smoke detectors are available for the hearing impaired.

Fire extinguishers should be mounted in the kitchen and garage

- Purchase an ABC type extinguisher for all types of fires.
- Sign up for a fire prevention class to learn how to properly use all safety equipment.