

# Manufactured Home Safety



Did you know that manufactured home fires claim hundreds of lives and cause countless injuries each year? Many of these fires are caused by heating and electrical system malfunctions and the improper storage of combustibles.

Shockingly, many of these fires could have been prevented. To protect your family from the incidence of fire, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs recommend the following life-saving fire safety tips:

## Safety First

- Maintain your home heating system by having a licensed professional check your heating system each year.
- Do not store combustibles or flammables near heat sources.
- Never overload outlets, extension cords or electrical circuits. If the circuit breaker trips or fuses blow, immediately call a licensed electrician to check your system.
- Have an escape plan and practice it often.
- Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked
- Space heaters need their space. Do not place portable space heaters close to combustibles or drapes/clothing.
- Consider installing skirting material to keep leaves and other debris and combustible items from blowing under your manufactured home.
- Install a smoke alarm in each sleeping area. In addition, it is suggested that a carbon monoxide alarm be installed in the home
- When considering a new home, ask if residential sprinklers are available as an option
- The combination of working smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers reduces the likelihood of death from fire by more than 80 percent.
- Fire sprinkler systems offer the optimum level of fire safety because they control the fire immediately in the room of origin, help limit the spread of fire, and often extinguish it before the fire departments arrives.
- Families with children, senior citizens, and physically impaired members have special fire protection needs. Home fire sprinkler systems provide added protection for these people.
- Remember, if there is a fire – get out, and stay out!

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROGRAMS**

For more fire safety information visit us online at [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com)