



## **Fire Safety Tips**

### **Fire Safety in the Home**

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your house. In addition, install a smoke alarm in any room where someone sleeps.
- Check the smoke alarm once a month; change its batteries every year, Replace it once every ten years.
- If you have a fire extinguisher in your home, contact the fire department to learn how to use it properly. In the event of a fire, there is no time to read the instructions on the extinguisher.
- Sleep with your bedroom door closed. A closed door will slow the spread of smoke and fire.
- Some fires you can try to put out, others will require that you immediately evacuate everyone in the house, then call 911. If the fire is confined to a small area, such as one burner of the stove, you may try to extinguish it yourself. Do not try to extinguish the fire unless you are familiar with the treatment of different types of fires. If a small fire begins to spread, as when a stove fire spreads to curtains, evacuate immediately. Fires spreads very quickly!

### **Around the House**

- Always remember to turn off appliances.
- Space heaters should be kept 3 ft. from flammable materials.
- Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
- Never throw water on an electrical fire. If an appliance is sparking, see if you can unplug it safely. Fire extinguishers labeled for class-C fires, or those labeled all purpose for A,B, or C fires, can be used on electrical fires.
- Baking soda can also be used to extinguish small electrical fires. If possible, first unplug the appliance, then throw handfuls of baking soda at the base of the fire. Call the fire department so that they can make sure the fire is out.

## **In the Kitchen**

- Never leave a burner unattended.
- Turn pot handles toward the center of the stove, so that the pots are not easily knocked off.
- If the oil or grease in a pan catches on fire, place a lid on the pan, turn off the burner, and allow the pan to cool with the lid on. Fire extinguishers labeled for class-B fires, or those labeled all-purpose for A, B, or C fires, can be used on grease fires.
- For small cooking fires, baking soda can be used to extinguish the flames. Turn off the burner and throw handfuls of baking soda onto the base of the fire. Do not get too close. Call the fire department, who can ensure that the fire has been put out.

\*For these and other life saving fire safety tips, read *Firefighting* by Jack Gottschalk available at your local bookseller.