



# CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

## Home Fire Safety Tips

Resident safety remains the City of Miami Beach's highest priority during this ongoing coronavirus pandemic. As we observe the Safer at Home order, the Miami Beach Fire Department is providing the following fire prevention tips to keep your homes and loved ones safe.

### **HAVE A PLAN**

Now that we are home, this is a great time to create and practice your fire escape emergency plan. Please be sure to incorporate the following tips into your plan:

- 1) Identify two ways out of every room and two ways out of your home, if possible.
- 2) Ensure the windows and doors open easily.
- 3) If you live with loved ones, have a meeting place outside.
- 4) Put your fire escape plan in writing.
- 5) Practice your fire escape drill regularly.
- 6) Remember: If your home is on fire, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY and STAY OUT!!!

### **HOME FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION**

Remember, SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES. Take a moment, to inspect your home to make sure it's ready in case of fire. Please be sure to check the following:

- 1) Ensure smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, if required, are installed in each bedroom and outside of each sleeping area on every level. Better protection is provided if the detectors in the home are interconnected.
- 2) Test the batteries in each detector and change the batteries if needed.
- 3) The sound of a carbon monoxide detector is different from the sound of a smoke detector; make sure everybody in the house knows the difference.
- 4) If the carbon monoxide detector sounds; leave the area immediately and go where there is fresh air. Call 911 and remain in your fresh air location until emergency personnel arrive.

### **KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY**

Stove, burners, ovens, microwaves, toasters, coffeemakers, and toaster ovens can cause severe burns and start fires. Therefore, please keep in mind the following reminders:

#### *BE ALERT*

- 1) Tight-fitting clothing or short sleeves are recommended to be worn when cooking.
- 2) Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave, then turn off the stove.
- 3) Do not cook if you are feeling sleepy or drowsy from medication or alcohol.
- 4) Keep kids and pets at least 36 inches away from the stove at all times.
- 5) Keep oven mitts and lids nearby at all times.
- 6) Turn the stove off when you are finished cooking.
- 7) Do not use wet oven mitts. A hot pan could turn dampness into scalding steam.
- 8) Open microwaved food slowly, away from your face. Consider getting a cup of water ready while the food is cooling.
- 9) Keep stove-top and oven clean. Remember grease and other food residues can catch fire.
- 10) Do not use barbecue grills indoors. They are serious fire hazards and produce toxic gases in enclosed spaces.
- 11) NEVER hold your child in your arms while preparing hot food.

## **BE CLEAN**

- 1) Keep things that can catch fire off stove tops (i.e., potholders, cookbooks, dish towels, food packaging, etc.).
- 2) Turn pot handles inward so that they cannot be bumped or pulled down by small children.

## **BE ELECTRICAL SMART**

- 1) Do not use cracked or frayed appliance cords. Replace any cord that is in poor condition or gets hot when in use.
- 2) Unplug appliances immediately if feeling hot, smokes, or gives off a strange odor.
- 3) Do not run extension cords across doorways, under carpets, or pinch them under furniture (misused extension cords are a fire hazard).

## **SMOKING**

- 1) Do not smoke inside your home, especially if there is oxygen used in the home.
- 2) Check your furniture for cigarette butts before going to sleep, especially if you have been drinking alcohol and smoking.
- 3) Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy, intoxicated, or medicated.
- 4) Buy only lighters that have a child-resistant safety feature and keep them out of the reach of small children.
- 5) Never leave matches and lighters lying around the house.
- 6) Empty ashtrays frequently; wet the contents and then dispose of them.

## **CANDLES**

- 1) Always stay in the room where candles are being used.
- 2) Have stable, non-combustible holders for candles.
- 3) Candles should be used only in well ventilated areas.
- 4) Keep candles away from children.
- 5) Keep candles at least 1 foot away from walls, curtains, decorations, and flammable liquids.
- 6) Place candle holders on a secure, uncluttered piece of furniture, away from edges and away from any place where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- 7) Do not use candles for emergency lighting.
- 8) Do not place lit candles in windows.
- 9) Extinguish candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

## **IN THE EVENT OF A KITCHEN FIRE (Please Call 911)**

- 1) If it is safe to do so, quickly slide a lid over a pan of food if it catches fire and turn off the burner.
- 2) Leave the pan covered until it is completely cool to prevent flare-ups.
- 3) If the oven is on fire, turn off the heat quickly (only if it is safe) and keep the oven door closed.
- 4) If the microwave is on fire, keep the door closed and quickly unplug the microwave (only if you can safely reach the plug).
- 5) Do not use water on a grease fire.

## **IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE**

- 1) Do not panic! Remember your escape plan.
- 2) Upon hearing the smoke detectors, quickly get out of bed.
- 3) Stay low to the floor if there is a lot of smoke. Crawl using hands and knees.
- 4) Feel the doorknob with the back of your hand. If the door feels cool, open it slowly and go to the nearest exit. If the door feels hot, go to your 2nd exit based on your escape plan.
- 5) Do not stop to collect valuables.
- 6) Once you get out, STAY OUT! Never return to a burning building.
- 7) If unable to leave your room/house, find a safe place and dial 911. Inform the dispatcher that you are trapped and provide details on your location in the house. Keep smoke out of your room by sealing the door with wet towels or sheets, if available.
- 8) If your clothes catch on fire DO NOT run! Stop everything, drop to the floor or ground, and roll over and over. If able, cover your face with your hands. Remember: STOP. DROP. ROLL.