

# Senior Fire Safety Prevention, Planning, & Evacuation

During winter months especially, many hallmarks of the holiday season present potential fire hazards that contribute to an annual increase in Canadian home fires.

A Senior Home Care by Angels care coordinator can meet with you to provide a no-cost, no-obligation home care consultation. During this coordinators also include complimentary home safety and fall-risk assessments, as well as a discussion of individual safety needs.

## Fire Prevention & Safety

Proactively implementing safety measures may improve likelihood of survival and lessen damage.

- Test smoke alarm batteries monthly.
- Change batteries at least once a year.
- Detectors are available for those with sensory impairments. These can produce low, audible tones; flashing lights; or even bed vibrations to alert individuals of smoke and fire.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan in case of event.
- If your senior uses a wheelchair or walker, make sure doors are wide enough, and ramps are available so seniors can escape safely.
- Contact your local fire department's nonemergency line to inquire about special needs protocol.

#### **Smoke Detectors**

Working smoke alarms dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. Place at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home and in hallways outside bedrooms. Additionally, remember to practice a home escape plan frequently.

#### Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Each floor of the home needs a separate CO detector. When placing them near the sleeping areas, make certain the alarm is loud enough to wake you up.

CO alarms and smoke alarms are designed and intended to detect two separate, distinct hazards. It's important to install both UL Listed CO alarms and smoke detectors.

https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/home-safety/fire-safety.html



### Common Fire Origins in Homes

Bedrooms are a common area of fire origin. Often these fires are caused by misuse or poor maintenance of electrical devices and sockets, careless smoking and arson.

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Tips to minimize fire hazards in the bedroom:

- Never smoke in bed.
- Check to make sure the cords are not frayed.
- Only use lab-approved electric blankets/warmers.
- Do not trap electrical cords against walls where heat can build up.
- Take extra care when using portable heaters. Keep bedding, clothes, curtains and other combustible items at least one metre away from space heaters.

Kitchens are a high danger zone for fire, so be extra cautious when cooking.

Tips to minimize fire hazards in the kitchen:

• Never use ovens to heat

the home.

- Always keep dish towels away from all appliances and electrical outlets.
- Don't leave stoves unattended while cooking and avoid loose clothing when cooking.
- Double-check the kitchen to be sure the oven and all small appliances are turned off before going to bed or leaving the house.



The following services can be provided for a few hours a day up to 24/7 care.

Bathing & Dressing Assistance Assistance with Walking Medication Reminders Errands & Shopping Light Housekeeping Meal Preparation Companion Care

Respite Care for Families Transitional Care End-of-Life Care



Call for a FREE Consultation

519.653.8185

Senior Home Care by Angels Cambridge and Guelph

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