Less than 20 percent of Americans smoke, and yet it's the second leading cause of home fires. These fires are 100 percent preventable.

**Smoking Safety**

- **Smoke outside.** Most fire deaths result from fires that start in bedrooms, dens, or living rooms.
- **Don't smoke while sleepy or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.** You may be unable to practice fire safety or escape a fire if your judgement is impaired.
- **Never smoke in bed.** The cigarette or ashes could easily land on the mattress or bedding, which are highly flammable.
- **Put cigarettes out all the way, every time.** Pour water on ashes, cigarette butts, or matches before putting them in the trash. Never discard cigarettes in potted plants or landscaping, and never walk away from a lit cigarette or other smoking materials.
- **Use deep, sturdy ashtrays or a bucket with sand.** Ashtrays should be noncombustible with wide bases that will not tip over and start a fire.
- **Never smoke around oxygen tanks.** Oxygen can explode with a flame or nearby spark, even if the oxygen is turned off.
- **Keep smoking materials away from children.** Never leave cigarettes or matches where children can reach them.

**Electronic Cigarettes**

E-cigarettes should be used with caution. Explosions and fires have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, the battery was being charged, or while being transported.

- Never leave charging e-cigarettes unattended.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for charging the lithium battery. Using power sources that are not approved can cause the battery to fail and result in an explosion.
- Prevent the battery from overheating by storing or transporting in a cool place.
- Take caution when transporting e-cigarettes in your pocket or purse. Batteries should never come in contact with metal like keys or loose change.