



# Live Safely In Your Manufactured Home

A Factsheet on Manufactured Home Safety

**F**ires in manufactured homes claim the lives of 500 Americans each year and injure 1,000 more. Many of these fires are caused by heating and electrical system malfunctions and improper storage of combustibles.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) would like consumers to know that there are simple steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property in home fires.

## THE PROBLEM

During a typical year, manufactured homes account for 22,000 fires, hundreds of deaths and \$200 million in property losses. An estimated 11 million Americans live in manufactured homes, where fire deaths occur at twice the rate of fire deaths in other types of homes.

## THE FACTS

Young children account for more than one-third of all fire deaths in manufactured homes. A recent study of rural fires showed that smoke alarms were less likely to be present or operating in manufactured homes.

## THE CAUSE

Electrical system malfunctions and heating fires are the leading causes of fire in manufactured homes. Together, they account for one-third of manufactured housing fires. Electrical distribution fires occur nearly twice as often in manufactured homes as in one- and two-family dwellings.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Have a minimum of two smoke alarms installed in your home regardless of sleeping space arrangements.
- Install smoke alarms in accordance with smoke alarm manufacturer guidelines. Test your smoke alarms once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Maintain your home heating system by having it serviced at least once a year by a professional.
- 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 escape routes with your family.
- Space heaters need their space. Do not place portable space heaters close to drapes, clothing or other combustible materials.
- Install skirting material to keep leaves and other debris and combustible items from blowing under your manufactured home.
- When considering a new home, ask if residential sprinklers are available as an option.
- If there is a fire – get out immediately, go to a neighbor's and notify the fire department using the 911 system or the proper local emergency number in your area.

**For More Information Contact:**  
**The United States Fire Administration**  
Office of Fire Management Programs  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

**Or visit the USFA website:**  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

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