Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

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Fire Safety Tips for Older Ohians

- Install a smoke detector on each level of the home and inside each bedroom.
- Check the smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least twice a year. Caregivers are encouraged to check detectors for those who are unable to do it by themselves.
- Make a fire escape plan for the home and know two ways out of the home.
- Make any necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps and widening doorways to facilitate an emergency escape.
- Speak to family members, the building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it with them.
- Ask emergency providers to keep senior citizens' special needs information on file.
- In multi-story homes, make arrangements to sleep on the ground floor, if possible, or near an exit.
- Never smoke in bed or near an open oxygen source, gas stove or other flammable object.
- When cooking, don't leave pots and pans unattended. Use a timer to remind you of food in the oven. Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords.