

# THE RISK OBSERVER

Safety Information for Residents

## FIRE SAFETY – COMMON CAUSES

Thousands of deaths and millions of dollars in property damage are caused by home fires each year. Many people believe “it won’t happen to me”. Following are safety precautions for some of the most common causes of home fires. They are easy to follow and could save your or a loved one’s life.

### Cooking

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, with most of those occurring on the cook top while frying. Never leave the kitchen while using the cooktop, and never remove the battery or disconnect a smoke detector.

- Pay close attention to items baking in the oven. Do not rely on a timer; fire can start well before the timer signals.
- Never cook or barbeque on your patio or balcony.
- Keep the stove surfaces and oven clean. Fire can start by igniting previously spilt food items or built up grease.

### Smokeing Materials

- Do not smoke in bed or on furniture when sleepy or on medication that causes drowsiness.
- Keep smoking materials away from anything that can ignite, like paper, plastics, curtains, upholstery, mattresses, etc.
- Use ashtrays that are deep and not easily tipped over.

### Burning Candles and Incense

- Extinguish all candles and incense when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles and incense away from items that can catch fire (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, upholstery, and flammable decorations).
- Use candle and incense holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax and ashes.

### Children Playing with Fire

Children have a natural curiosity about fire, so we need to teach them how dangerous fire can be. Adults need to play their role by maintaining a safe environment for their children. Matches and lighters need to be stored out of a child’s reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

Children should be taught:

1. NEVER play with matches or lighters. Lighters and Matches are tools for grown-ups ONLY, and are NOT TOYS.
2. If they find any matches or lighter, tell a grown-up RIGHT AWAY