



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HFD REMINDS CITIZENS TO BE CAUTIOUS IF USING CIGARETTES

The Houston Fire Department has responded to four fires within the past week caused by careless use of cigarettes, resulting in a combined \$5000.00 worth of damage. Although, there were no reported injuries from these incidents, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) says that "Smoking materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States."

The Houston Fire Department and NFPA recommend citizens follow these simple safety tips if you smoke:

- Never smoke in bed or when you are sleepy, have been drinking, or taking medication.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.
- Make sure the butts and ashes are completely out before discarding. Dousing them in water or sand is the best way to do this.
- Check under furniture cushions and in other places people smoke for cigarette butts that may have fallen out of sight.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is being used.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.
- The NFPA also suggests choosing fire-safe cigarettes.
- Always, have a working smoke detector in your home and know your escape plan and have meeting place for occupants to meet at once they escape.

For additional safety tips, citizens may visit the Houston Fire Department website at www.houstonfire.org

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Help Us Help You.
Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

