

# Facts about FIRE

## Get Everyone Out and Stay Out !!!

If you have a fire in your home, there are a few important rules to follow. Fire will spread very quickly through a house, especially an older house where the wood construction is very dry. Fire produces heat, smoke, and gases. Smoke is very dangerous, it reduces your vision (causing disorientation when trying to exit the house) and contains particles which cause extreme breathing problems. Many deaths occur each year from smoke inhalation. When on fire, poisonous gases are emitted from things such as a couch or even carpet. These gases can be deadly. Fire can produce temperatures over 1000 degrees in just a few minutes. One key thing to remember is that heat, smoke and gases will rise to the ceiling level and then begin to bank down. That is why you need to stay close to the floor when exiting the house. Did you know that fire can spread through an entire room in 3 minutes? Did you know that when you hear a smoke detector activating there is already smoke and fire in the house? With these facts in mind you may consider the following:

Get everyone out of the house quickly (you may have only a few minutes). DO NOT try to retrieve valuables, money, pets, ect. before getting out. Remember these items are replaceable.

NEVER GO BACK INTO THE HOUSE ONCE EVERYONE IS OUT !!

Go to another house or cell phone and call 911. Be sure to give **YOUR** address, full name, and be prepared to answer questions from the 911 dispatcher.

Wait to meet the Fire Department and notify them you are the owner or contact person.

## After the Fire Department Arrives

The fire department may break windows and cut a hole in the roof of your home. Due to the extreme heat, smoke and gases, certain tactics must be used to extinguish the fire. One tactic commonly used is called ventilation. It involves breaking windows and opening the roof in some cases. Ventilation allows the gases and smoke to exit the house, thus allowing the firefighters to safely enter the house. Ventilation also reduces fire spreading and smoke damage. Parts of walls and ceilings must be forcibly opened to check for "hidden" fire. After the fire is out, the damage may appear unnecessary; however, without the use of these fire fighting tactics, complete fire suppression would be extremely difficult. There are times it may appear that firefighters are laughing and having a good time while extinguishing a fire. We do enjoy our job and must deal with the destruction we see in different ways. We would never find joy in witnessing someone lose their home and contents that they work very hard for. We regret any loss that is suffered by homeowners and we always give it our best to save their property and lives.