

# Shabbat Fire Safety



Shabbat, a centerpiece of Jewish life, is observed every week by families throughout the world. The day of rest and celebration requires preplanning. Fire safety should be an important element of the preparation.

## Smoke Alarms

- It is important to install smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and in the basement.
- For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. Look on the back of your smoke alarms for the date; if it is 10 years old replace right away.

## Escape Planning

- Make a home escape plan with your family that includes two ways out of every room.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet in case of emergency.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year, at night and during the day with everyone in your home.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, family members should get outside and stay outside. Call 9-1-1 from outside the home. On Shabbat, a neighbor could be approached to call 9-1-1 once everyone is safely outside.

## Food Warming

- When warming food, use a device such as a slow cooker or a cooktop or range with a Shabbat mode and a blech. These devices are designed for long-term warming.
- Make sure your warming device has the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep anything that can burn away from these heat sources, such as curtains, towels, paper and pets.

## Candles

Candles should be placed in a sturdy candle holder. If a candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container and placed in a sink on a metal tray. The candle can also be placed in a deep basin filled with water.

## Home Fire Sprinkler SMARTS

If you are building or remodeling your home, consider installing a home fire sprinkler system.

Home fire sprinklers can suppress and often extinguish a fire before the fire department arrives, giving your family time to escape.

Many insurance companies offer a discount for homes with a fire sprinkler system.

Home fire sprinklers respond only to significant heat, not smoke. During most fires, only a single sprinkler head activates.



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



*Our Intention is Fire Prevention*  
Whitpain Township Fire Marshal's Office  
960 Wentz Road  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
610-277-2400