



SMOKING & VAPING SAFETY

Improperly discarded cigarettes in planter pots, soil, peat moss, and lawns are another leading cause of fires in Medicine Hat.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF SMOKING MATERIAL

- Dispose of cigarette butts in a deep, wide metal container with a secure lid.
- Douse cigarette butts in water before disposal.
- Don't toss cigarette butts out of your car window. It's a fire hazard, pollutes roadsides, and harms the environment.

REDUCE FIRE RISKS OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- Vape batteries can overheat – store them properly and never overcharge.
- Keep the following items at least 1.5 metres away from your home: propane tanks, flammable liquids, firewood, dried leaves, woody shrubs, trees and construction materials. **Do not store propane tanks inside.**

Live near grasslands?

Visit **FireSmartAlberta.ca** for tips on protecting your home from wildfire risks.



LITHIUM ION BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium-ion batteries power many everyday devices, including smartphones, laptops, e-scooters, e-cigarettes, kitchen appliances, and even vehicles.

While convenient, these batteries can overheat, catch fire, or explode if not used or charged properly.

SAFE BATTERY USE AND CHARGING

- Use only manufacturer-approved batteries and chargers designed for your device.
- Do not charge your device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Keep batteries away from heat sources such as heaters, direct sunlight, or hot vehicles.

SIGNS OF A PROBLEM

- Watch for these signs of battery failure: unusual odor or smoke, change in colour or excessive heat, swelling or changes in shape, and leaking or strange noises.
- If you notice any of these, stop using the battery immediately and move the device away from flammable materials.

WHAT TO DO IF A BATTERY CATCHES FIRE

- For small batteries, use a fire extinguisher. If you are not trained or do not have a fire extinguisher, get out and phone 9-1-1.
- For large batteries, leave the building or area immediately and phone 9-1-1.

Do not throw batteries in the garbage. Take them to a recycling retailer for safe handling.



Medicine Hat
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

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ENGLISH

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

HOME SAFETY

Fire prevention for **inside** and **outside** your home

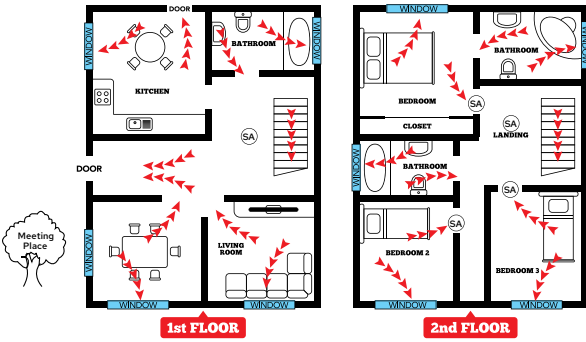


IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



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HOME ESCAPE PLAN

A home escape plan ensures that everyone in your household knows what to do in case of a fire. Planning ahead can save lives.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PLAN

- **Two ways** out of everyone room. The door is the primary exit, and the window serves as a backup.
- **A designated meeting spot.** Choose a safe spot outside your home where everyone gathers after escaping.

REMEMBER

- Practice your home escape plan at least twice a year.
- If there is a fire, get out and stay out.
- Once you're safe, call 9-1-1.

MAKE A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



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SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms provide an early warning and can give you and your family time to escape safely in the event of a fire. A working smoke alarm can mean the difference between life and death – and can help minimize damage to your home.

If your smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately, close the door behind you to slow the spread of fire, and call 9-1-1 from a safe location.

MAINTAIN YOUR SMOKE ALARM

- **Install** smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area, and on every level of your home.
- **Test** your smoke alarms monthly.
- **Change** the batteries once a year.
- **Replace** the device every 10 years.



INSTALL • TEST • CHANGE • REPLACE

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, and tasteless gas that can be deadly. The only way to detect it in your home is with a working carbon monoxide alarm.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS

Common signs of carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, dizziness, fatigue or weakness, watery or burning eyes, nausea or vomiting.

If your carbon monoxide alarm sounds or you start experiencing these symptoms, get outside immediately then phone 9-1-1.

MAINTAIN YOUR CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM

- **Install** a carbon monoxide alarm on every level of your home, and outside of every sleeping area.
- **Test** your carbon monoxide alarm monthly.
- **Change** the batteries once a year.
- **Replace** the device every 6-10 years or according to manufacturer's instructions.



KITCHEN & COOKING SAFETY

In Medicine Hat, unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires.

PREVENT COOKING FIRES

- Stay alert and never leave food unattended while cooking on the stovetop.
- Set a timer as a reminder to prevent distractions.
- Heat cooking oil gradually and keep the temperature below 200 degrees to reduce fire risk.
- Keep flammable items such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, cloth grocery bags, and towels, away from the stovetop.

IN CASE OF A COOKING FIRE

- Smother the flames by sliding a fitted lid or metal baking sheet over the pan, if safe to do so.
- Turn off the heat and allow the pan to cool.
- **Never use water** to put out a grease fire.

For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If there is a fire in your microwave, keep the door closed, press STOP and unplug the unit, if possible.