

## Groveland Fire Department's 10 Tips for Fire Safety

<b>1.</b>	<b>Install Smoke Detectors</b>	Smoke detectors can alert you to a fire in your home in time for you to escape, even if you are sleeping. Install detectors on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area. If you sleep with the door closed, install one inside your sleeping area as well. Test detectors every month, following the manufacturer's directions, and replace batteries once a year, or whenever a detector "chirps" to signal low battery power. Never "borrow" a smoke detector's battery for another use - a disable detector cannot save your life. Replace detectors that are more than ten years old.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Plan Your Escape from Fire</b>	If a fire breaks out in your home, you have to get out fast. To prepare, sit down with your family and agree on an escape plan. Be sure that everyone knows at least two unobstructed exits - doors and windows - from every room. If you live in an apartment building, do not include elevators in your escape plan. Decide on a meeting place outside where everyone will meet after they escape. Have your entire household practice your escape plan at least twice a year.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Keep an Eye on Smokers</b>	Careless smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths in North America. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy. Provide smokers with large, deep, non-tip ashtrays and soak butts with water before discarding them. Before going to bed or leaving home after someone has been smoking, check under and around cushions and upholstered furniture for smoldering cigarettes.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Cook Carefully</b>	Never leave cooking unattended. Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles and wear clothes with short or tight-fitting sleeves when you cooking. Turn pot handles inward on the stove where you cannot bump them and children cannot grab them. If grease catches fire in a pan, slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the heat source. Keep the lid on until pan is completely cooled.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Give Space Heaters Space</b>	Keep portable and space heaters at least three feet or one meter away from anything than can burn. Keep children and pets away from heaters and never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Matches and Lighters - Tools Not Toys</b>	In a child's hand matches and lighters can be deadly. Buy child-resistant lighters and store all matches and lighters up high, where kids cannot see or reach them, preferably in a locked cabinet. Teach your children that matches and lighters are tools, not toys, and should be used only by adults or with adult supervision. Teach small children to tell a grownup if they find matches or lighters; older children should bring matches and lighters to an adult immediately.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Cool a Burn</b>	Run cool water over a burn for ten to fifteen minutes except if the skin is blistered or charred, as this could cause blisters to break possibly leading to an infection. If the burned skin is blistered or charred, see a doctor immediately.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Use Electricity Safely</b>	If an electric appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately, then have it serviced before using it again. Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed. Do not overload extension cords or run them under rugs. Do not tamper with your fuse box or use improper-sized fuses.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Crawl Low Under Smoke</b>	During a fire, smoke and poisonous gases rise with the heat. The air is cleaner near the floor. If you must escape through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest exit, keeping your head twelve to twenty-four inches (thirty to sixty cm) above the floor.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Stop, Drop, and Roll</b>	If your clothes catch fire, do not run. Stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll over and over to smother the flames.