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# **BE PROACTIVE ABOUT HOME FIRES**



#### By Heide Peters, Rothenberger Insurance Services Did you know over 50

percent of home fires are started by cooking? According to the US

Fire Administration (https://www.usfa. fema.gov/data/statistics 2019) 29.9 percent of US fires are residential, and yes, half of them start in the kitchen!

Losing a home means losing years of memories and thousands of dollars in valuables. We wanted to go over some tips for preventing a house fire and protecting your family.

#### **Safety Plan**

If you don't have a fire safety plan at home, why not? In some cases, a fire can spread so quickly that you only have up to two minutes to escape! It's crucial to sit down with

your family and discuss what should happen if a fire breaks out. On your plan, be sure to mark all exit ways by door or window. You should also routinely check smoke detector batteries and install alarms in all bedrooms. Fire extinguishers are also very important, and they should be routinely checked as well. Read the labels and keep them up to date.

# **Prevention Tips**

To prevent a fire, there are some tips to follow which you may never consider. A few of these tips focus on proper cleaning, which includes stove tops and ovens, as well as cleaning the lint screen for your dryer after every cycle. If these small items continue to build up, they can catch fire easily.

You should also be wary of electrical problems that could grow out of control. If you live in an older home, your wiring could be past due for replacement. Other signs to be aware of include a burnt smell without a proper source, your breaker shutting off repeatedly, or sparking outlets. If you identify any of these issues, you should contact a professional to get their attention.

> With all the protection in the world, home fires are still very unpredictable. You never think you could end up a victim until it actually happens. So even if it is just the small precautions, it is very important for you and your family to do whatever you can to prevent accidental fires.

And don't forget to replace those smoke detector batteries and keep your fire extinguishers up to date!!!

Wishing you and your families and friends a happy Memorial Day Holiday from everyone at Rothenberger Insurance Services. Have a great cookout and be safe!!!

Rothenberger Insurance Services is a full service independent insurance agency specializing in residential insurance and commercial insurance. Residential insurance services include automobile insurance, home owners insurance and life insurance. Commercial insurance services include group life insurance, group health insurance and general liability insurance. Rothenberger Insurance Services has two locations : 436 Penn Ave West Reading 19611, Phone 610.406.5827 and 507 Madison Ave Reading 19605, Phone 610.685.2804.

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