



Basic Fire Safety at Home

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Help employees understand the basics of fire safety at home as well as some of the products that can make the home safer.

ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME: Approximately 6 minutes for the video. Use the Summary section if you wish to review the main points in the video. Use the Additional Discussion section to spend more time on this topic.

HOW TO USE: View the video. If you wish to spend additional time, use the discussion guide below.

SUMMARY OF POINTS FROM THE VIDEO:

- Customers with sprinkler systems should have them tested and maintained regularly, according to their local codes.
- Customers might want a fire extinguisher. They should get a multi-purpose extinguisher (rated A, B & C). Recommend one that is small enough they can easily handle.
- Also recommend a fire escape ladder, for those with a home with at least two stories that give homeowners two ways out.
- Encourage customers to have an escape plan for what their family will do in case of a fire. Their local fire department may be able to help them create a plan.
- There are several fire hazards homeowners need to be aware of:
 - Many fires start in the kitchen, so remind customers to be careful when cooking and keep flammable items away from the stove.
 - Maintain furnaces by changing filters frequently and keeping them in good working condition.
 - Have the chimney and fireplace inspected yearly and make sure to open the flue when operating.
 - Electric heaters should be at least 36" away from any obstacles.
 - Major appliances should plug directly into the wall. They should not plug into an extension cord, unless that cord is rated for appliance use.
 - Clean dryer vents regularly to avoid lint build-up, which can cause a fire.
 - Always extinguish candles before leaving the house or before going to bed.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

Here are some additional safety points to discuss with customers:

- Discuss the types of fire safety equipment you carry in the store, such as fire extinguishers and escape ladders.
- If home sprinkler systems are popular in your area, discuss local codes governing their testing and maintenance so you know how to advise customers.
- Remind employees of your store's fire safety plan. If there is a fire, how do you safely evacuate customers? What are the responsibilities of each employee?

Here are some additional home safety tips not covered in the video:

- Properly dispose of coals after grilling. Always follow manufacturers instructions when using a turkey fryer.
- Never store flammable items, such as gasoline, in the home.
- Have a family escape plan. That plan should include a meeting place outside the home.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING: View the Trainer's Toolbox lesson in "Installing and Maintaining Smoke Alarms" for additional information on helping customers learn about fire safety. Take NHPA's Basic Training in Hardware Retailing, Hardware Department to learn more about home safety products.