



SMOKING & HOME FIRES CAMPAIGN

Smoking is the number one cause of home fire deaths. In an effort to prevent these deaths, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is launching a nationwide ***Smoking & Home Fires Campaign*** designed to raise awareness and stop home fires caused by smoking before they start. The Bristol Tennessee Fire Department is supporting this important effort to help save lives by educating smokers and those who live with smokers.

The USFA's Smoking & Home Fires Campaign is aimed at alerting people, especially smokers and those who live with them, that careless smoking is the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths. The Campaign's goal is to prevent fire deaths by urging smokers to ***Put it Out. All the Way. EveryTime.*** The Bristol Tennessee Fire Department is proud to be a partner with the USFA in this very relevant campaign. "Citizens in our community have been killed in fires started by cigarettes. It is time for us to realize that one person killed in a preventable home fire is too many" said Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal, Jack Spurgeon. "Together, we can save lives."

"Most fires caused by smoking materials start on beds, furniture, dry grass, or in trash," said Spurgeon, and, "It's not just the smokers that are killed in these fires. In fact, one in four people killed in smoking related fires are not the smokers themselves." On average, 1,000 people are killed in smoking-related home fires every year and most people are asleep when the fires occur. Smoke-related fires can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions. Smokers and those who live with smokers should ensure the following:

- Smokers should smoke outside and use ashtrays with a wide, stable base that won't tip over.
- Always make sure cigarettes and ashes are out.
- Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water before throwing them away.
- Chairs and sofas burn fast so never put ashtrays on them and check for cigarettes under cushions if people have been smoking in your home.

- If you are drowsy or falling asleep, put it out. Smoking in bed is just plain wrong.

To learn more about the fire department's efforts you can view our web site at bristoltn.org or view BTN-TV Channel 16. Feel free to contact Assistant Chief Spurgeon if additional information is needed at (423) 989-5701.

If You Smoke, Put it Out. All the Way. EveryTime.