

Protecting the Sacred Lands Around the Home

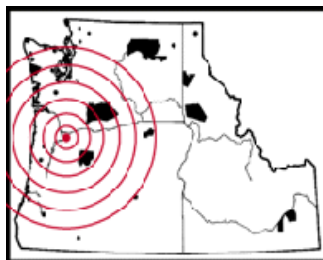
The conditions of the area around the home play a big role in how long it takes for a house to burn. In a dry climate, bushes or dry grass burn rapidly. In woodland areas dense brush and vegetation decrease the time it takes.

- Keep lawns trimmed, leaves raked, and the roof and rain gutters free from debris such as dead limbs and leaves.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.
- Create defensible space by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet around your home.
- Post home address signs that are clearly visible from the road.
- Use fire resistant, protective roofing and materials like stone, brick and metal to protect your home. Avoid using wood materials that offer the least fire protection.



- Make sure water sources, such as hydrants and ponds, are accessible to the fire department.

Developed by the
Tribal Epidemiology
Center Consortium



Northwest Tribal Epidemiology



**Protecting yourself, your
family and your
community**



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**FIRE
SAFETY
on
TRIBAL
LANDS**

Protect Our People, Prevent Fires

House fires are the leading cause of death and injury due to fire in the US. Too often once a fire starts in a rural area it is often hard to control and burns down houses in its path.

American Indians living in rural communities have an increased risk of injury and death due to fires ^(1, 2, 3)

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives. Place smoke alarms outside of sleeping



Children playing with matches is the second leading cause of house fires

areas, the living room and kitchen. They should be installed approximately 20 feet from any fire hazard. Designate someone in the house to press the test button and test the alarms once a month.

In Home Safety Tips

Take some time to practice the following safety tips and get the whole family involved:

- **Smoking:** If you smoke, smoke outside and dispose of ashes and butts in fireproof containers. Cigarettes are the leading cause of house fires.
- **Give Heaters Space:** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn including you.
- **Never Leave Cooking Unattended:** Wear fitted clothing and short sleeves when cooking. Use mitts to move hot pans and if a pan of food catches fire put a lid over it and turn the burner off.



Photoelectric alarms are the best; they do not sound an alarm due to common kitchen steam.

- **Plan and Practice Escape Routes:** If possible know two ways out of every room and make sure windows and doors open easily.

- **Stop, Drop and Roll:** If your clothes catch on fire remember to **stop, drop and roll**.
- **Emergency Numbers:** Your emergency number may be 911 or the fire departments direct line. Call the nearest fire department to find out the fastest way to get a hold of them in case of an emergency and leave this number near the phone.
- **Children:** Be sure to point pot handles away from the edge so that toddlers cannot pull the hot pots or pans on top of them and be cautious of using table cloths that they can also pull and risk getting burned.



¹ U.S. Fire Administration. Fire in the United States 1995 - 2004. Emmitsburg (MD); 2007

² Hall JR. Burns, Toxic Gases, and Other Hazards Associated with Fires: Deaths and Injuries in Fire and Non-Fire Situations. Quincy (MA): 2002.

³ U.S. Fire Administration. Mitigation of the Rural Fire Problem. Emmitsburg (MD); 2007