HOME, Safe Home

Statistics show that homes are generally more hazardous that the workplace, or a car.

Burns occur most of the in the home.

- . The most common cause of burns is scalding.
- . Hot tap water, hot beverages or food burns children frequently.
- . Estimate of 1 million Americans suffer burns each year

Be sure your home has adequate WORKING smoke detectors/alarms.

- . <u>Minimum required</u>: Smoke detector/alarm outside each sleeping area. More than one detector is needed if all be
- drooms are not located on the same hallway.
- . <u>Maximum protection</u>: Smoke detectors/alarms in each bedroom, hard wired so that all alarms sound if one detector is activated.
- . <u>Other factors</u>: Heavy sleepers, hearing impaired individuals. Smoke detectors with loud sound and flashing lights are recommended.
- . TTY/TTD devices should be CLOSE to the bed.

Keep your home clean and organized.

- . Remove trash and other flammable items, properly.
- . Organization helps avoid common hazards; misplaced matches overturned appliances or cooking
- . items, and inadequate space around portable hearts.

Insert safety covers in all unused electrical outlets.

. Reduces the risk of injury to curious children.

Be sure all appliance cords and extension cords are in good condition

- . Never use a frayed or cut cord, repair or replace IMMEDIATELY.
- . Use extension cords only in temporar
- . y situation.
- . Never use more than one extension cord in sequence.
- . Never place an extension cord under a rug or carpet.
- . Avoid overloading outlets

Be aware that many plastics and other petroleum-based products release toxic gases when burned.

- Large quantities of 'man-made' petroleum-based products: foam rubber, vinyl, PVC, and other plastics, are contained in furniture and other products.
- . If a fire occurs and these products burn, these products will release potent toxic gases, which increases the potential for injury or death

Keep a **fire extinguisher** in you kitchen, workshop, or garage.

- . Proper maintenance and inspection is essential.
- . Learn to use the extinguisher properly.
- . Use the extinguisher ONLY if you are sure that you can extinguish the fire.
- . NEVER UNDERESTIMATE a fire; call the fire department IMMEDIATELY if you have any doubt

Texas Commission on Fire Protection Fire Prevention Education Austin, TX