



NATIONAL NON-SMOKING WEEK  
SEMAINE NATIONALE SANS FUMÉE

nnsf.ca

snsf.ca

Brought to you by the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control  
Présenté par le Conseil canadien pour le contrôle du tabac

## **You Can Prevent Smoking-Related Fires!**

January 2009

Fires caused by cigarettes and smoking materials are the primary cause of fatalities due to residential fires in Canada. The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs estimates that approximately 70 deaths and 300 injuries are caused by careless smoking every year.

**If you smoke, your best choice is to smoke outside. By doing so, you protect your family from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and dramatically reduce the risk of a smoking-related fire in your home.**

**Outdoor smoking fires are on the rise. Even if you smoke outside, you must still take care.**

- Always make sure your cigarette is out completely before returning indoors.
- When you smoke outside, use a sturdy ashtray or a can filled with sand or water to collect ashes.
- NEVER toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash or in the bushes.
- NEVER put butts out in the soil of potted plants. Plant soil contains peat moss and other fertilizers that can easily burn and there have been many fires as a result of planters catching fire.
- Pour water on old cigarette and cigar ends before throwing them in the garbage.
- No matter what the weather, don't take refuge and smoke in an enclosed area such as a garage or shed that contains flammable liquids.

**If you or someone you live with smokes in your home, the most important thing you can do is to have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas. For maximum protection, install smoke alarms in every bedroom and rooms used by smokers.**

**Never smoke in a home where oxygen equipment is being used. Always put out your cigarette all the way. . . every time.**

- Stub out your cigarette properly in an ashtray.
- Never leave a cigarette, cigar or pipe unattended.
- Don't balance cigars or cigarettes on the edge of an ashtray or other surface, they can tip and fall as they burn away.
- Pour water on cigarette and cigar ends before throwing them in the garbage.
- Never empty a pipe into the garbage, the ember can still be very hot, even if it is not burning.



NATIONAL NON-SMOKING WEEK  
SEMAINE NATIONALE SANS FUMÉE

nnsf.ca

snsf.ca

Brought to you by the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control  
Présenté par le Conseil canadien pour le contrôle du tabac

## **Use a good deep ashtray with the cigarette holder in the middle of the tray so if the cigarette falls off, it falls in the ashtray.**

- Ashtrays should always be placed on something sturdy and hard to ignite like a table, not the arm of your sofa or easy chair.
- Use ashtrays with a wide, stable base that are hard to tip over.
- Empty and clean your ashtray regularly
- Douse your ashtray with water before throwing its contents in the garbage.
- Empty your ashtray into a metal garbage can that is located outdoors.
- Do not place paper wrappers or other flammable items in your ashtray.
- Never smoke in an armchair if you are tired or feeling drowsy, and especially not if you have been drinking alcohol.
- If you must smoke, go and smoke outside.

## **Ensure your furniture is fire safe**

- Always check between the cushions of your chair or sofa before you leave a room.
- Replace worn or frayed covers on furniture if possible.
- Be careful when using blankets on furniture.

## **Matches and lighters**

- Use only one disposable lighter at a time and store extra matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children.
- Ensure children understand that any matches or lighters they find should be given directly to an adult.
- Teach children not to play with matches and lighters.
- Use safety matches (that light only by striking on the box).
- Use child proof lighters only. Allow matches to fully extinguish and cool before disposing of them. Put them in water.



NATIONAL NON-SMOKING WEEK  
SEMAINE NATIONALE SANS FUMÉE

nnsw.ca

snsf.ca

Brought to you by the Canadian Council for Tobacco Control  
Présenté par le Conseil canadien pour le contrôle du tabac

## References:

Canada Safety Council Website. Cigarettes and Fire Safety Information Sheet. Accessed November 13, 2008 from: <http://www.safety-council.org/info/home/fire-safecigs.html>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) If you smoke, put it out. All the way. Every time. 2007. Accessed November 12, 2008 from <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/smoking/GeneralAudienceFactSheet.pdf>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Website. Smoking and Home Fires. Accessed November 13, 2008 from: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/campaigns/smoking/>

Health Canada Website. Science and Research: Program Estimates the Damage of Cigarette Fires. 2007. Accessed November 12, 2008 from: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/sr-sr/activ/protection/fire-feu-eng.php>

InfoScotland website. Don't give a Fire a Home: Smoking Information Sheet. Accessed November 13, 2008 from [http://www.dontgivefireahome.com/fire\\_safety/1360.html](http://www.dontgivefireahome.com/fire_safety/1360.html)

InfoScotland website. No smoke without fire? Accessed November 13, 2008 from: [http://www.dontgivefireahome.com/fire\\_safety/files/nosmokewithoutfire.pdf](http://www.dontgivefireahome.com/fire_safety/files/nosmokewithoutfire.pdf)

Sécurité publique Québec website. Smoking, Smoke, Fire. Accessed November 13, 2008 from [http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca/incendie/incendie\\_en.asp?txtSection=cons\\_prev&txtCategorie=toutes\\_saison\\_s&txtNomAutreFichier=fume\\_incendie\\_mars\\_2005\\_en.htm](http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca/incendie/incendie_en.asp?txtSection=cons_prev&txtCategorie=toutes_saison_s&txtNomAutreFichier=fume_incendie_mars_2005_en.htm)