

Division of Human Resources Business Risk and Loss Control

Safety Short

Home Fire Safety

Our **Safety Short** is courtesy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home and the bedroom is the most common room in the home where electrical fires start. Deaths due to bedroom fires are particularly preventable. Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chance of dying in a fire by nearly a half. Here's a list of simple fire safety tips for preventing bedroom fires:

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least once a year. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Replace mattresses made prior to the 1973 Federal Mattress Flammability Standard.
- Keep lighters, matches and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of reach of children. Children are one of the highest risk groups for death in residential fires.
- Keep lit candles away from bedding, curtains, papers and anything else that can ignite easily.
- Do not run electrical cords under your bed or trap them against a wall where heat can build up. Avoid overloading extension cords.
- Take extra care when using portable heaters. Keep bedding, clothes, curtains and other flammable items at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- Only use lab-approved electric blankets and warmers. Check to make sure the cords are not frayed.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two escape routes from their bedrooms and practice these often.
- In case of a fire, crawl or stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and use the escape plan you have worked out. Get out and stay out

In the mission to help protect the state's human and financial assets, the State Office of Risk Management provides free consulting and technical services for all state agencies and offers comprehensive safety and loss control training programs and resources. Courses range from 1-hour to 8-hour, as well as a library of training videos that can be loaned to state agencies.

Course information and online registration is available through the State Office of Risk Management Web site at <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/dhr/train/index.htm> If you do not have computer access, please contact the State Office of Risk Management by phone at 303-866-3848 or toll free at 1-800-268-8092.