



Serving North Spokane County

Fire Safety for Senior Citizens

Americans over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of dying in a fire. 75% of the 1300 seniors who perish each year in fires do not have a working smoke detector in their homes. If you are a senior, remember the following:

- Have a smoke detector installed in your home; make sure it is checked out at least monthly, if you can not afford a smoke detector contact Spokane County Fire District 4 Administration at (509) 467-4500 and it may be possible to receive one through a grant; if you are a resident of Spokane County
- Have a licensed electrician examine the wiring in your home; also, have the wiring on your appliances checked out.
- Keep space heaters away from combustible materials.
- Never cook in loose-fitting clothing that could catch fire over the stove.
- Avoid smoking inside the house. If you must smoke, do not smoke in bed, around upholstered furniture or near anything that might ignite easily.
- Keep your address and directions to your house next to your phone, in case you have to call to report an emergency.
- If fire breaks out, place a cloth or towel over your mouth and nose and crawl low on the floor to the nearest exit.
- In case of a fire, get out of the house immediately. Call for emergency assistance and **DO NOT GO BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE FOR ANY REASON.**
- Talk to other seniors about starting a fire prevention education group. Invite a fire official to the meeting.