

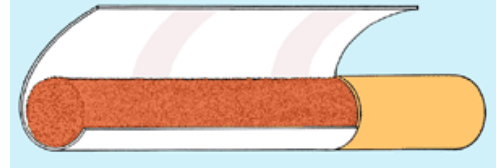
Fire Safe Cigarettes: What Will Make the Difference?

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In an effort to save lives and prevent devastating destruction, Minnesota signed into law May 2007 effective December 1st, fire safe cigarettes. The Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes and the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department want you to be informed.

If a fire-safe cigarette is left unattended, the burning tobacco will reach one of these banded "speed bumps" and self-extinguish.



What is a fire-safe cigarette? A fire-safe cigarette has a reduced probability to burn when left unattended. The most common fire-safe technology used by cigarette manufacturers is to wrap cigarettes with two or three thin bands of less-porous paper that act as "speed bumps" to slow down a burning cigarette. If a fire-safe cigarette is left unattended, the burning tobacco will reach one of these speed bumps and self-extinguish. Fire-safe cigarettes are shown by "FSC" markings.

Fire-safe cigarettes save lives

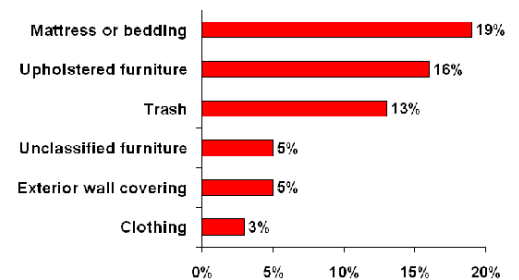
The good news is that improved standards for cigarette-resistant materials in furniture and mattresses, and public education have all helped cut down the number of fires caused by smoking materials and have saved many lives. The bad news is that *people still die* each year due to cigarette-ignited fires. And the fact remains: *smoking materials are the #1 cause of fire deaths in the United States*. There is no doubt that fire-safe cigarettes will save hundreds of lives each year. Deaths caused by cigarette fires declined dramatically in New York State, the first to pass legislation in 2004. The use of cigarettes with a proven, reduced propensity to ignite other materials **will** save lives and offer the best opportunity to achieve the next big leap forward in fire protection.

Know the Facts

- Cigarettes are a **leading cause of home fire fatalities** in the United States, killing 700 to 900 people - smokers and nonsmokers alike - per year.
- Smoking-material fires killed 800 people and injured 1,660 others in 2005. Ninety-three percent of the deaths and 78 percent of the injuries were in home fires.
- Property losses from smoking-material fires total hundreds of millions of dollars each year.
- There were 82,400 smoking-material structure fires in the United States in 2005.
- One-quarter of victims of smoking-material fire fatalities are not the smokers whose cigarettes started the fire: 34 percent are children of the smokers; 25 percent are neighbors or friends; 14 percent are spouses or partners; and 13 percent are parents.
- The risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age. Between 2002 and 2005, one-third (34 percent) of fatal smoking-material-fire victims were age 65 or older.
- Mattresses and bedding, upholstered furniture, and trash are the items most commonly ignited in smoking-material home fires.
- Between 2002 and 2005, almost half (42%) of fatal home smoking-material fire victims were sleeping when injured; one-third (32%) were attempting to escape, to fight the fire, or to rescue others.



First Ignited Items in Smoking-Related Home Structure Fires, 2002-2005



Source: NFIRS and NFPA Survey

Prevention

With any fire problem, you can and should try to change the heat source (the cigarette), the items ignited (for example, mattress, couch), and the behavior that brings them together (that is, the smoker's behavior). The realities are that our actions while smoking and after, are the biggest factors in prevention of lives devastated.