

HOME FIRE SAFETY SAFARI!



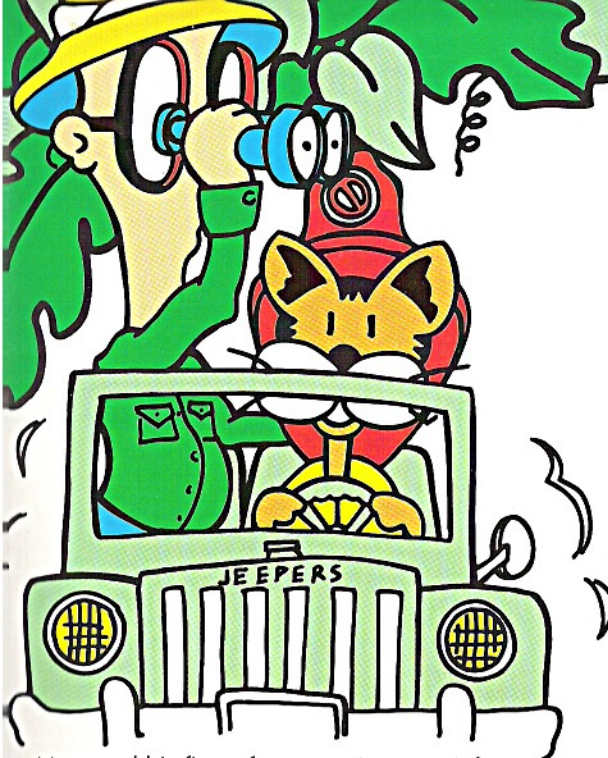
NERO & ASHCAN GUIDEBOOK

YOUR ROOM-BY-ROOM
FIRE HAZARD CHECKLIST



Manitoba
Labour
Office of the





Nero and his fire safety-conscious cat Ashcan invite you and your family on a room-by-room Home Fire Safety Safari.

Most of us think of our homes as safe havens. But even the most orderly house or apartment can have potentially dangerous fire hazards lurking in and around it.

The fact is, one-third of all the fires in Manitoba occur in homes. The major cause is careless cooking, which accounts for almost 400 fires annually. Most other fires are caused by electrical problems, careless smoking and

lack of maintenance.

Over 80% of the deaths and injuries caused by fires in Manitoba occur in homes.

The good news is that most home fires **can** be prevented.

Prevention is what a Home Fire Safety Safari is all about.

This booklet has been prepared to provide you with a room-by-room guide to tracking down and eliminating fire hazards in your home. It's a fun way for the whole family

to learn more about fire safety.

A pen or pencil is all the gear you need to get started on your Home Fire Safety Safari. As Nero and Ashcan lead you through your home, be sure to check off each fire hazard you find and fix. At the end of your Safari, you'll know your home and family is protected – and you'll be eligible for a special Safari Souvenir from your local fire department.

All around

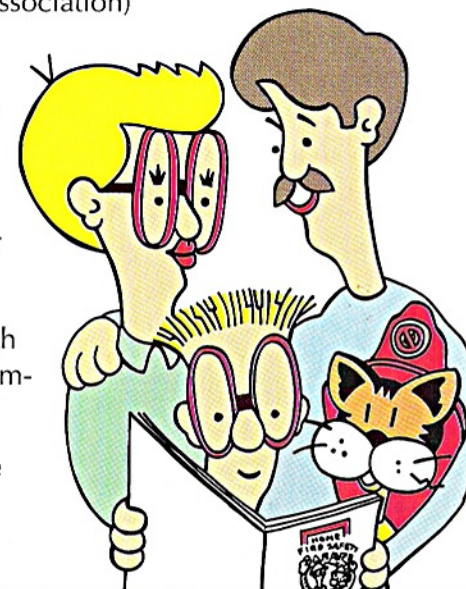
Keep these general safety tips in mind as you hunt for fire hazards throughout your home:

- ☐ Smoke alarms save lives! Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and check the batteries each month. Replace batteries every year. When purchasing, choose smoke alarms with ULC (Underwriter's Laboratory of Canada) labels.
- ☐ Does your family know what to do in case of fire? Plan escape routes, decide on a meeting place outside your home, and have regular fire drills. If fire strikes, everyone should know to crawl low in smoke. Make sure escape routes are clear of obstacles at all times.
- ☐ Replace frayed or damaged electrical cords.



the house

- ☐ Look for the CSA (Canadian Standards Association) approval stickers on all your electrical appliances, fixtures, heaters and tools, and on containers for storing flammable liquids.
- ☐ Overloaded electrical circuits are dangerous beasts! Cut down to one plug per outlet for safety's sake.
- ☐ In lamps and light fixtures, use bulbs with wattages at or below the maximum recommended by the manufacturer.
- ☐ Install outlet covers to keep curious little fingers away from danger.



Kitchen

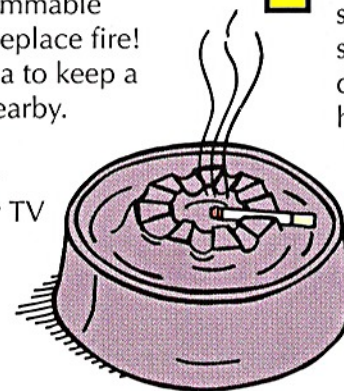
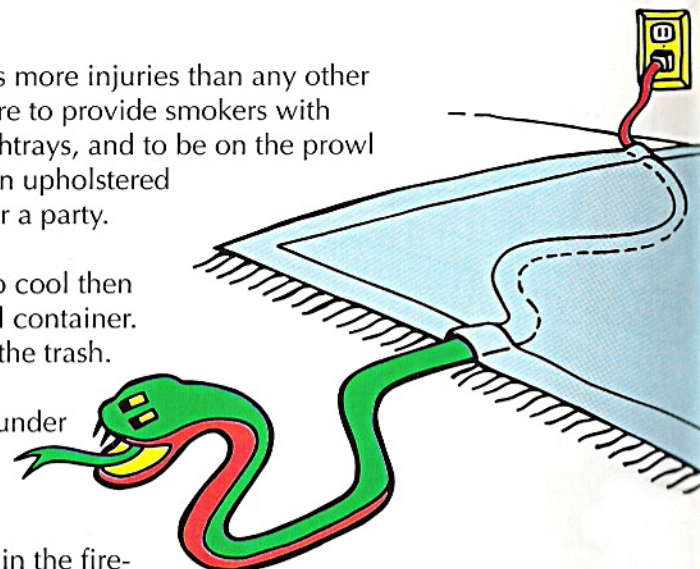


- Cooking can cause ferocious fires if you're not careful. Lessen the risk by wearing tight sleeves or short sleeves when you cook. And remember, if your clothes catch fire – stop, drop and roll.
- Be extra careful when deep frying foods. Keep a tight fitting pot lid handy to smother flames.
- Outfit your kitchen with an ABC class fire extinguisher and keep it in easy reach. Don't wait for a fire to happen. Learn how to use your fire extinguishers now.
- Keep combustibles such as drapes and towels away from stoves and other heat-generating appliances.
- In case of fire in your microwave or oven, close the door and turn the appliance off.
- Be on guard – never leave cooking food unattended. And keep your stove, oven and hood fan free from grease build-up.
- Turn handles in so children can't reach up and pull hot pots from the stove.

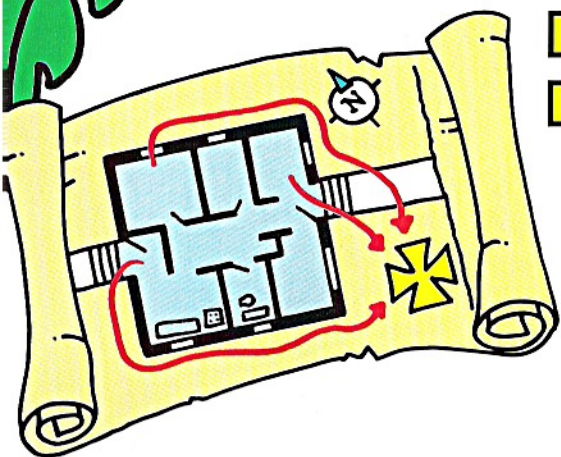


Living & family rooms

- Careless smoking causes more injuries than any other type of home fire. Be sure to provide smokers with large, heavy, fire-safe ashtrays, and to be on the prowl for stray cigarette butts in upholstered furniture, especially after a party.
- Leave ashes overnight to cool then empty them into a metal container. Never throw ashes into the trash.
- Electrical cords snaked under carpets or mats are very dangerous.
- Make sure the fire stays in the fire-place with a metal or tempered glass fire screen. Remember to have the chimney checked and cleaned at least once a year. Never use flammable liquids to start a fireplace fire! It's also a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Leave plenty of air space around your TV and stereo equipment so they don't overheat.
- Keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children.
- Keep combustibles away from space heaters. Remember, space heaters are not clothes dryers! Turn off portable heaters at night and when you go out.
- Place candles in sturdy holders away from materials that could catch fire.

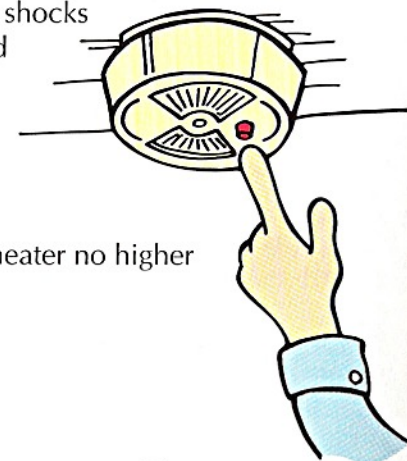


Bedrooms & bathrooms



- **No smoking in bed!**
- Install smoke alarms close to bedrooms and test each one every month. Replace the batteries every year.
- Make sure the whole family knows what a smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if a smoke alarm goes off. Plan at least two escape routes so you don't get trapped.

- Electricity and water don't mix! Prevent shocks by keeping hair dryers, curling irons and electric shavers away from water.
- Grounded outlets in the bathroom can help prevent electric shocks.
- Hot water can scald, so set your water heater no higher than 50°C (120°F).



Basement

- Maintain your furnace by having it checked and cleaned annually. If your furnace uses gas or liquid fuel, be sure it's equipped with a safety pilot light.
- Is your basement a jungle of jumbled papers and other rubbish? Clear out trash before it accumulates.
- Move storage areas away from furnace, water heater and other appliances.

- Store flammable liquids in CSA approved containers outside your home.
- In the laundry room, keep appliances in good working order. That includes cleaning out the lint filter in the dryer after every use.
- If a fuse blows, find out why and replace it with the correct size fuse.



Workshop & garage

- Never smoke or have an open flame or space heater near flammable liquids or fuel tanks.
- Buy CSA approved power tools and keep cords and working parts in good order.
- Three-pronged plugs should only be used with the appropriate outlet. You should never expose yourself to fire danger by bending back the third prong.

■ Store gas, propane, oil and other flammable materials in CSA approved containers. These and other flammable products such as solvents and paints should be stored away from heat sources.

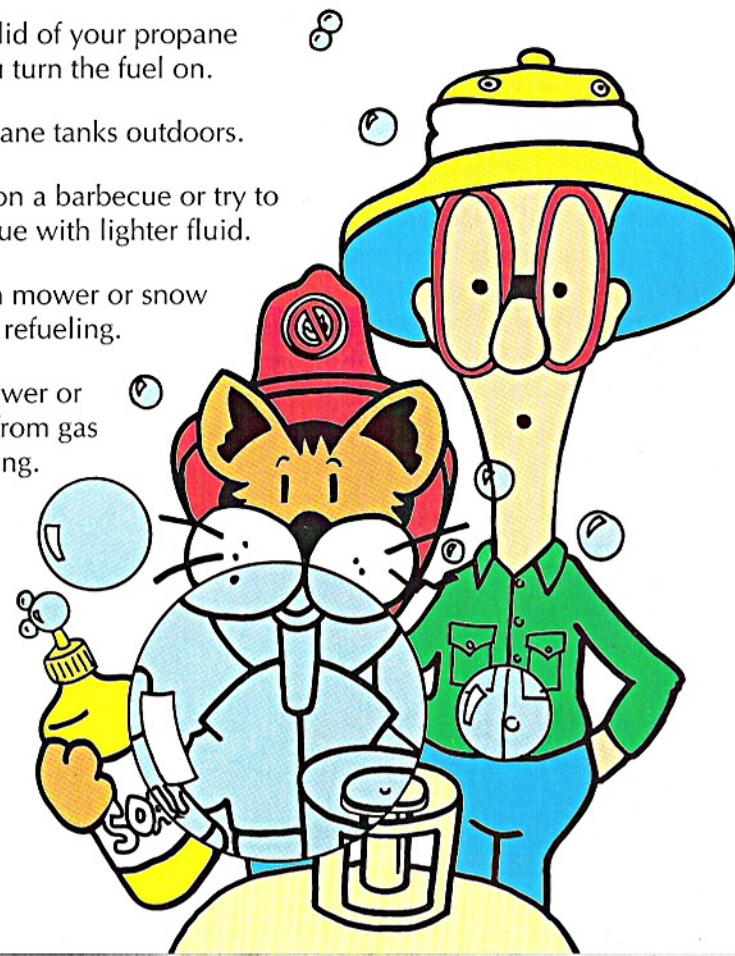
■ Wait until your lawn mower or snow blower cools before refueling. Move away from gas fumes before restarting.

■ Make sure your garage or workshop is properly ventilated and kept clean and tidy.



Outside your home

- Check your propane barbecue for valve leaks by applying soapy liquid to joints and opening the cylinder valve. Burst bubbles indicate a leak. Never check for leaks with a flame!
- Be sure to open the lid of your propane barbecue before you turn the fuel on.
- Store barbecue propane tanks outdoors.
- Never use gasoline on a barbecue or try to rekindle a lit barbecue with lighter fluid.
- Wait until your lawn mower or snow blower cools before refueling.
- Move your lawn mower or snow blower away from gas fumes before restarting.
- Clear away rubbish, snow and other obstacles from escape route doors and windows.



Get a Home Fire Safety Safari souvenir from your local fire department

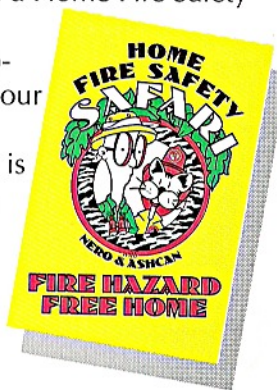
Congratulations! By completing your Home Fire Safety Safari, you've taken the first step towards preventing fires in your home. To recognize your efforts – and to remind you to continue to track down and eliminate home fire safety hazards – your local fire department wants you to have a special Home Fire Safety Safari Souvenir.

Simply take your completed workbook to your local fire department and exchange this tear-off portion for a Nero and Ashcan fridge magnet.

While your there, your fire chief or

fire prevention officer will be happy to answer any questions you may have, and to provide you with more information on fire prevention. Your workbook will be returned to you so that you can set off on a Home Fire Safety Safari every year.

Remember, protecting yourself, your family and your property from fire is the most valuable reward of going on a Home Fire Safety Safari.



Please assist us in planning future fire safety programs by completing this survey and returning it to your local fire prevention officer.

1. Did your family go on your Home Fire Safety Safari together? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Was the guidebook easy to follow? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Other comments: _____

3. Please list the fire hazards you found in your home.

4. Did you find fire hazards that weren't in your guidebook? What were they?

5. What other information on home fire safety would you find useful? (Check as many as you like.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Propane Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireplaces/Wood Burning Appliances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguishers | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Escape planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches and Lighter Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke Alarms | <input type="checkbox"/> Chimney/Furnace Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____