



**MAX Canada**  
Insurance Company



## Loss Control Tips – Fire Prevention

### Things to Know

Fire losses can be devastating, both physically and emotionally. Below are facts and tips to help you become more knowledgeable about fire prevention and what to do should one start in your home. MAX Canada is dedicated to helping our members create and sustain wholeness within our communities, and helping our members in their time of need. Our claims department is standing by, prepared to help and assist with any type of loss. In addition, our Mutual Aid Ministries team is available for emotional and spiritual support during times of loss. Don't hesitate to contact us at (877) 770-7729 or [info@maxcanada.org](mailto:info@maxcanada.org).



### How to Prevent Fires

- Test smoke alarms and CO2 detectors regularly.
- If you have a woodstove, make sure that the chimney stack and stove meets WETT, Warnock Hersey or Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) specifications. Do not use any fuel for the stove other than what is specified.
- Never leave food unattended on a stove.
- Don't allow clutter around fireplaces and other heating appliances.
- Check heating appliances, like furnaces, boilers and electric heaters, before the heating season starts to ensure proper maintenance and operation.
- Do not store flammable liquids or gasses in the home or in cluttered garages.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Check appliances for maintenance and frayed cords.
- Don't dispose of cigarettes or smoking devices indoors.
- Be prepared. Have a fire extinguisher ready for use.

#### Did you know?

One of the greatest family gathering events, Thanksgiving Day, is also the leading day of the year for home cooking fires.

We know that children love to help cook. Have kids get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** of the kitchen.

Visit us online for more information, tips and advice.

- [www.maxcanada.org](http://www.maxcanada.org)
- [www.maxwholenessblog.com](http://www.maxwholenessblog.com)
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## Cooking Safety

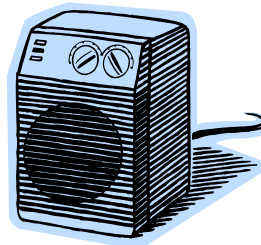
According to the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshall (OFM), careless cooking is the #1 cause of fire-related injuries in Ontario. Between 1998 and 2007, 74% of total cooking related fires were attributed to stovetops.

### Tips to follow:

- Stand by your pan when you are frying, grilling or broiling. Do not leave the stovetop unattended while cooking.
- Keep an open box of baking soda nearby. Pouring baking soda on the flames can be an effective way to extinguish grease fires.
- If a grease fire occurs, you have only a few minutes to either extinguish the fire or escape from the house!
- Do not use water on a grease fire. This could cause the burning grease to splash, spreading the grease fire out of the pan.
- If the fire is small and in the pan, carefully slide a lid over the fire to smother it.
- Do not attempt to remove the pan from the stove when it is burning. Many people get burned and spread the fire when this is attempted.
- Use only BC or ABC fire extinguishers on grease fires.

## Heating with Electric Space Heaters

Many consumers find that portable electric space heaters provide an excellent secondary source of heat but sometimes with a high cost. According to the National Fire Protection Association, **32% of home heating fires** every year are caused by space heaters. A lion's share of these fires were associated with electric space heaters. **It is estimated that one third of the injuries resulting from electric heater fires occurred at night when family members were asleep and the heater unattended.** Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) and National Fire Protection Association agree that safety is a top consideration when using electric space heaters.



### Tips to follow:

- Use only tested and approved appliances. A commonly found testing label is ULC (Underwriters Laboratories of Canada).
- Never use an electric space heater as a primary source of heat. Their one purpose is to provide supplemental heat.
- Plug directly into a snug fitting outlet. Do not use extension cords unless absolutely necessary.
- If an extension cord must be used, do not permit the cord to be buried under carpets, rugs or anything else.
- Keep the space heater at least one meter from combustibles.
- Unplug or turn the heater off when unattended and while sleeping.



*Information taken from the Insurance Bureau of Canada, National Fire Protection Association and Ontario Office of the Fire Marshall*

*Policies underwritten by MAX Canada Insurance Company or through Mutual Aid Insurance Brokers Company. Not available in all provinces. 5.2012*