Top Five Places Fires Start | Top Five Causes of Fires
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2. Bedroom | 2. Electrical Arching
3. Exterior Wall | 3. Heat from Motors or Appliances
4. Attic | 4. Embers or Ashes
5. Porch/Balcony | 5. Hot or Smoldering Object (Cooking)

*Ranking above based on last three years (2011-13) of fires reported in Des Moines.

Here are 12 simple items YOU can check to help minimize your risk of fire.

1. Ensure stove tops and counters are clean and uncluttered.
2. Ensure an adult stays in the kitchen when food is cooking.
3. Do NOT use extension cords or multi-plug adapters to power kitchen appliances- toaster, microwave, coffee pots, etc.
4. Extension cords should not be under carpet, rugs, or doorways. Extension cords should only be used for a short period of time, not permanently.
5. Electrical cords should be in good condition- no cracks or frays.
6. Candles should be in a sturdy container that won’t tip over.
7. Extinguish all candles before going to bed or leaving the room.
8. Smoking of fire-safe cigarettes should occur outside with large deep ashtray.
9. Secure matches and lighters out of children’s sight/access.
10. Inspect and clean furnaces and chimneys yearly.
11. Turn off space heaters when leaving room or sleeping.
12. Clean clothes dryer lint filter and venting system regularly.

Any comments or questions regarding the above information may be submitted to:
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