



# AFTER THE FIRE

## Tips to Prevent Fires

Bureau of Fire Prevention ~ 40 Summit Drive  
843-682-5140



On July 7, 2015, Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue responded to a call at a multi family residence for a brush fire under a porch. When crews arrived, they found smoke showing on the front porch and a neighbor attempting to put out the fire with a garden hose. Three Engine Companies, one Truck Company, one Medic Unit and a Battalion Chief responded to that scene at 07:40pm.

The cause of the fire was the failure to put out smoking materials in a proper container. A cigarette had been placed in a plastic coffee container when it was not fully extinguished. The fire burned through three boards on the deck. Fortunately the neighbor saw the fire before it could spread to the pine straw under the porch.

A fire will change your life in ways that you can not even begin to imagine. Below are some tips to help you prevent this from happening at your home. Fire safety starts with you so—PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY EVERY-DAY!!

Please contact the Fire & Life Safety Educator at 843-682-5141 with any questions.



## SMOKING SAFETY

### ***Before you start!***

The safest place to smoke is outside the home.

Use an ashtray with a wide, stable base that is hard to tip over. Ashtrays need to be on something sturdy.

A cigarette needs to be completely out in the ashtray. Soak cigarette butts in water before throwing away.

### ***While smoking!***

Never smoke while using oxygen or anywhere near an oxygen source.

Never smoke in bed—you can become drowsy and fall asleep. .

Make sure you have working smoke alarms in your house. Dual sensor are best because they sense smoke and flames.

Putting out a cigarette the right way only takes seconds.

### ***After the fire!***

Smoking is the number one cause of preventable home fire deaths across the country.

Every year smokers are killed in home fires caused by smoking materials like cigarettes, cigars and pipes. A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed can cause a large fire in seconds.

If you smoke, put it out, all the way, every time and use the proper receptacle.