



# Media Advisory

## Darien-Woodridge Fire District

7550 Lyman Ave  
Darien, IL 60561



### Contact Information:

Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris 630-910-2207

Date: January 14, 2008

---

## Smoking and Home Fires

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District endorses a public-safety campaign by the U.S. Fire Administration to end the number one cause of home fire deaths – fires started by smoking related materials. Thirteen national partners are joining forces in this effort. This effort is not an anti-smoking program, but rather one to educate people who smoke that they need to take extra steps to prevent smoking related fires.

There are about 3,000 fire deaths annually, and about 1,000 of those are killed in home fires that are caused by cigarettes and other smoking related materials. Smoking related fires continues to be the leading cause of home fire deaths.

One in four people killed in home fires are not the smoker whose cigarettes caused the fire. Thirty-four percent were children of the smokers. Twenty-five percent were neighbors or friends of the smoker.

You can make a difference! These fire deaths are preventable by simply following a few simple steps such as:

- Using ashtrays with a wide stable base. If it wobbles, it won't work
- If you smoke, smoke outside
- Put out cigarettes in an ashtray or can filled with sand
- Check for cigarette butts under sofa cushions, and on or behind furniture before going to bed
- Never smoke in an area where oxygen is in use
- Use fire safe cigarettes – they are less likely to cause fires
- Never smoke in bed
- Make sure your cigarette is fully out, especially if you are drowsy from medicine or alcohol
- Run ashes and butts under water before throwing them away

### **Put It Out. All The Way. Every Time.**

Smoker or not, there are some other good safety rules to follow such as having a working smoke detector on each level of your home, changing any smoke detector batteries twice a year, installing a carbon monoxide alarm, create and practice a home escape plan, and if possible, install residential fire sprinklers in your home.

###