

## If You ARE A Mobile Home Resident, You Should Know THIS About Fire:

- ▲ It occurs no more frequently in mobile homes than in structural residences.
- ▲ It generally spreads faster in a mobile home.
- ▲ Injuries occur more frequently from mobile home fires than others.
- ▲ Mobile home occupants are **twice as likely to die from a fire** as occupants of other one- or two-family residences.

*("Evaluation of Mobile Home Fire Safety," U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, March 1982.)*

### A Family Fire Prevention Plan

#### Install/Maintain Smoke Detectors

There should be one detector outside each sleeping area. Check monthly to be sure they're working.

#### Plan Escape Routine

- ▲ Doors: Always keep free of obstructions.
- ▲ Windows: A door or specially designed exit window should be in each bedroom. Know how the escape window works.
- ▲ Outside Meeting Place: Designate a spot in advance for all family members to meet if evacuation is necessary.
- ▲ EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home): Make sure everyone knows EDITH well (see illustration). Walk through the family escape routine several times, then set off a smoke alarm one evening after everyone is asleep to test response. This maneuver might save a life later.

#### Maintain Heating System

Annual maintenance by a qualified expert is recommended.

#### Safe Heater Room

Do not use the heater room for storage. Chance sparks or spontaneous combustion because of heat buildup in heater compartments start many fires that block escape routes. Be sure walls in heater rooms are made of non-combustible materials.

#### Know Your Electrical System

Know where the electrical distribution panel box is located and how it operates. Mark each fuse or circuit breaker as to the areas it con-

trols. Do not leave panel box door open. If breakers trip continuously, fuses blow or you notice acrid smells, call a qualified electrician. Do not overload electrical circuits.

#### Use Portable Heaters Safely

Do not allow clothes and other combustibles near a portable heater. If non-electrical heaters are used, be sure the room is ventilated.

#### Safe Stove Area

Have non-combustible materials installed on wall surfaces behind and beside the stove.

#### Don't Smoke in Bed

This is one fire hazard over which you have complete control.

#### No Debris Under Home

A fire under the home might remain relatively small until detected if no extra combustibles contribute to its growth. Debris or woods fires have less chance setting the home afire if they are prevented from getting under the home. Skirting materials prevent debris from blowing under your home, and can stop a grass fire. They also keep children and pets away from wiring or gas lines.

#### Partnership Goal: A Safer Home for All

This pamphlet is not intended to discourage anyone from buying or living in a mobile home. The goal of the agencies bringing you this message is to make mobile home dwellers aware of the need for fire safety, and to provide information that may save a life, prevent an injury, or protect irreplaceable belongings.

Today's mobile homes are safer than ever before. But traits inherent in the design, construction and delivery make even the newest models more susceptible to fire than structural homes. An awareness of potential trouble areas and a well-rehearsed plan of escape can make your mobile home more secure for you and your family.

#### Location of Most Mobile Home Fires (in order of frequency)

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Kitchen     | 4 Heating room           |
| 2 Living room | 5 Underneath mobile home |
| 3 Bedroom     |                          |

*(The order of frequency for fatal fires: living room, kitchen, exit areas, bedroom, heating room.)*

#### Main Causes of Mobile Home Fires (in order of frequency)

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Heating system          | 4 Arson         |
| 2 Electrical distribution | 5 Appliances/AC |
| 3 Cooking                 | 6 Smoking       |

#### Emergency Drills In The Home (EDITH)

- ▲ Plan two escape routes from each room.
- ▲ Test all smoke detectors monthly.
- ▲ Periodically conduct a fire drill.
- ▲ When exiting from a bedroom through the door, feel the door before opening it. If the door is hot, **DO NOT** open it because the fire is behind the door. Use the second exit route.
- ▲ Practice crawling on the floor during your escape. If smoke is present, fresher, cleaner air will be near the floor.
- ▲ Have a prearranged meeting place outside the home for the entire family. **DO NOT** go back into the home once outside.
- ▲ Know the location of the nearest telephone so you can report the fire from outside your house. Know the telephone number for emergency services or the fire department, and be prepared to clearly provide your full address.

## Mobile Home

# FIRE SAFETY



## A Partnership for the People

Florida Division of Forestry - Florida State Fire Marshal  
Florida Fire Chiefs Association - Florida State Firemen's Association

Florida Fire Marshals Association

International Society of Fire Service Instructors,  
Florida Chapter

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner

Pictured are 25 of the most common fire hazards in and around mobile homes. If any of these exist at your home, you and your family aren't as safe as you could be. Contact your local fire prevention "partner." He'll gladly answer any questions.

**1 • Burning Barrel**

Legal only if trash pickup is NOT available weekly, and local laws do not prohibit it. Barrel should be covered with mesh screen spark arrester, and ground cleared to bare earth for 10 feet around barrel.

**2 • Hot Ashes**

Never dump in exposed pile or into container holding household trash. Soak with water and bury.

**3 • Debris**

Newspapers, oily rags and rubbish can fuel a fire. Remove and dispose.

**4 • Yard Rubbish**

Unightly as well as a fire hazard. Do not allow paper, rags, weeds and other rubbish to accumulate.

**5 • Children & Fire**

Keep matches away from children. Teach them fire safety. You are responsible for fires they start.

**6 • Gasoline Storage**

Use a safety can. Keep in well-ventilated place.

**7 • House Wiring**

Use copper wiring; aluminum wiring can be very dangerous. If your home has aluminum wiring, have system checked annually by a qualified electrician.

**8 • Overloaded Circuits**

Use only one appliance at a time on a single outlet. Check electrical cords; replace if worn. Never run cords under rugs.

**9 • Trash on Roof**

Leaves, pine needles, etc., are dangerous fire hazards. Keep roof clear of them.

**10 • Fuse Box**

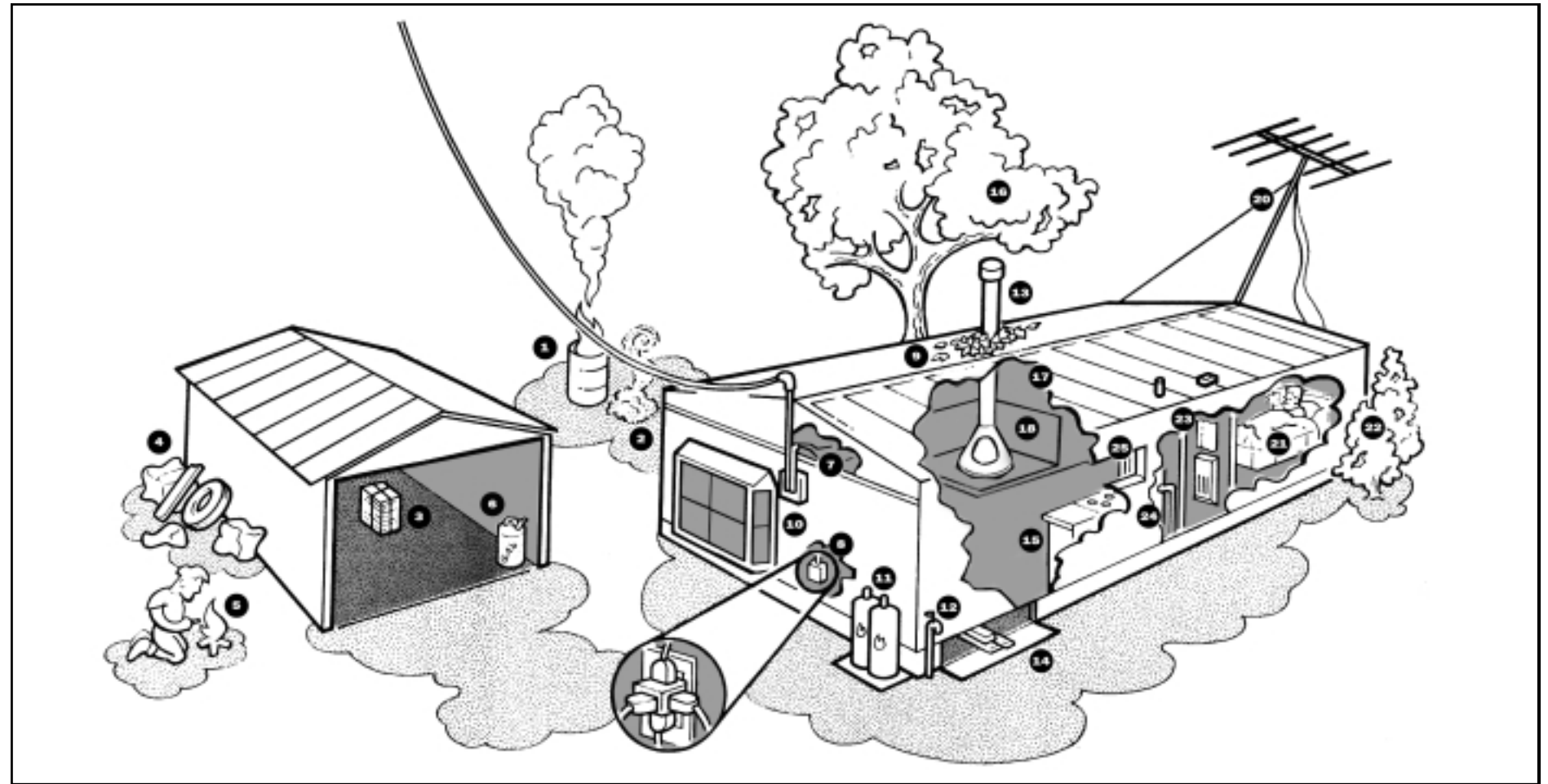
Always use proper fuses/breakers. Never "bridge" fuses.

**11 • Fuel Tanks**

Too close to building. Remove to a distance where valves can be shut off if house is burning.

**12 • Outside Water Supply**

Too near house for use in case of fire. Have pipe stand away from building, with hose available.



**NOTE:** Improper setup, especially with double-wide or "expando" models, can cause structure shifts and lead to electrical wiring hazards.

**13 • Chimney**

Cover with mesh screen spark arrester. Top of vent should be at least 3 feet above roof.

**14 • Skirting**

Should be maintained to prevent burnable debris from blowing under mobile home, and to prevent materials from being stored there.

**15 • Fire Extinguishers**

Keep an all-purpose-type fire extinguisher handy near the stove. They are inexpensive. Have several around.

**16 • Overhanging Branches**

Don't allow branches to hang over a flue or chimney.

**17 • Smoke Detectors**

Place in appropriate places, including outside each sleeping area. Check monthly.

**18 • Fireplace**

Use fire-resistant material on walls behind free-standing fireplaces or wood stoves.

**19 • Stove**

Use fire-resistant materials on walls around the stove.

**20 • TV Antenna**

Poorly installed. Keep guy wires tight. Use lightning arresters.

**21 • Smoking in Bed**

One of the main causes of fires in all types of homes.

**22 • Vegetation**

Don't allow forest vegetation to grow within 30 feet of house.

**23 • Towels**

Too near gas wall heater.

**24 • Gas Water Heaters**

Play it safe by venting all gas heaters. Have yearly checks of hoses/connections. Extend all vent pipes above roof.

**25 • Curtains**

Use fire-resistant materials, especially for curtains near a stove, heater or fireplace.