

Learn about fires

Many house fires can be prevented through daily preparation and awareness.
Learn about the main causes of fires and start taking steps to prevent them!

01

Causes of fires in Kofu City

In 2021, there were 79 fires in areas under the jurisdiction of the Kofu District Fire Headquarters. Of these, 12 fires were caused by cigarettes, accounting for about 15% of the total. Fires caused by cigarettes are on the rise, so beware! Fires are also caused by a variety of other factors, including open fires, wiring accessories, and stoves.

02

Large fire in Niigata Prefecture

On December 22, 2016, a fire broke out at a ramen restaurant in Itoigawa City, Niigata Prefecture, due to somebody forgetting to turn off a large kitchen stove. The ensuing large-scale fire destroyed 147 buildings (120 totally destroyed, five half destroyed, and 22 partially destroyed). A strong wind warning was issued on the day of the fire, with strong winds causing a large amount of fire sparks and embers to scatter and the fire to spread. The fire could only be extinguished about 30 hours after it broke out, leaving the affected area completely scorched and devastated.



Itoigawa City Fire

Photo courtesy of NPO Disaster
and Disaster Prevention Volunteers Miraikai

03

Forest fire in Kofu City

On December 28, 2008, a forest fire broke out on Mt. Daizokyoji in Kofu City. Over the five-day period until it was brought under control on January 1, 2009, the fire destroyed approximately 55.2 hectares of forest. It took a long time to get the fire under control due to the dry air and strong winds at the time, and some local residents had to be temporarily evacuated.



Mt. Daizokyoji Forest Fire

Photo courtesy of Kofu District Fire
Department Headquarters

Are you using flameproof goods?

To prevent fires caused by bedding, clothing, curtains, and other textile products catching fire, one possible solution is to choose flameproof goods that are less likely to catch fire.



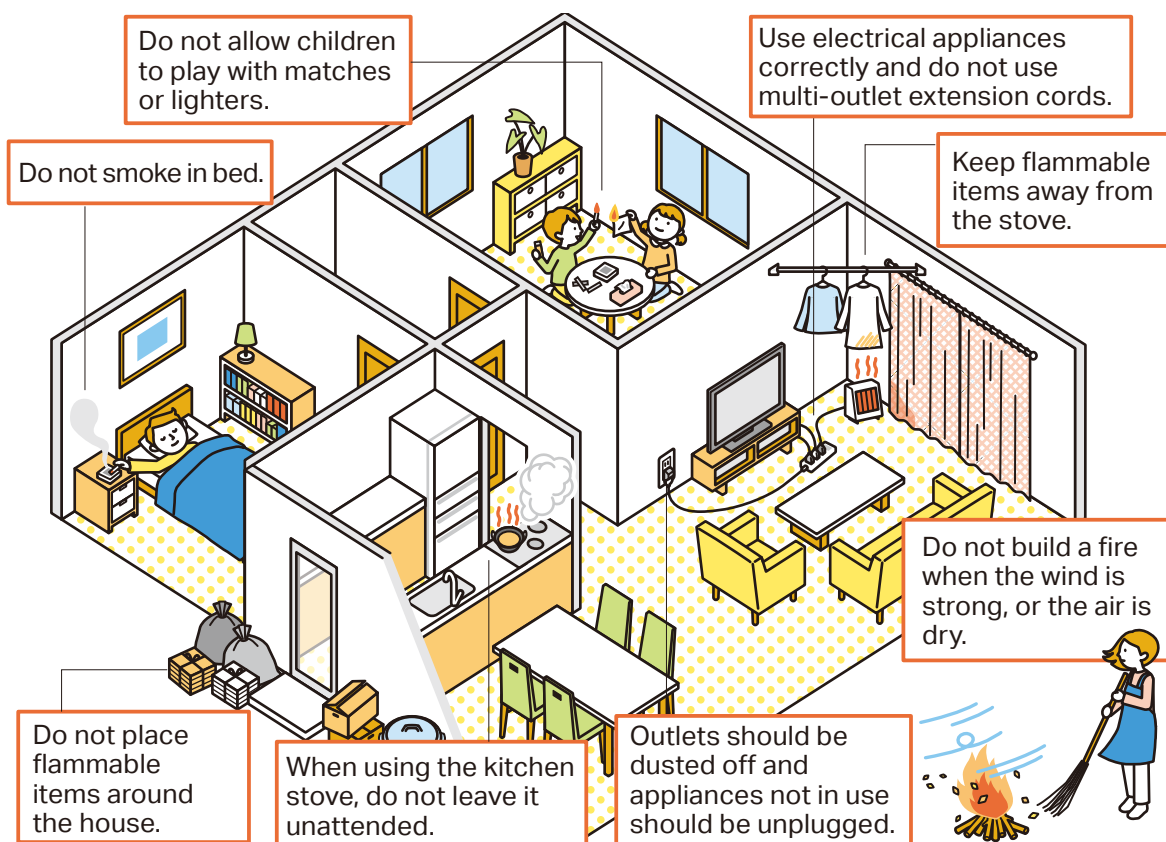
Flameproof goods label



Flameproof product label

Fire-proofing your home

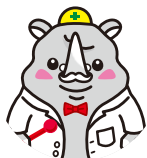
Be aware of fire hazards on a daily basis by identifying possible dangerous spots in and around your home.



Let's check together!



Keeping the house neat and clean, both inside and out, is a good way to prevent fires, isn't it!



The first step in fire prevention is to avoid creating a flammable environment in your everyday home life. Keeping the house and its surroundings tidy and organized is also a good way to prepare for earthquakes, typhoons, etc. It is also important for everyone in the family to develop fire prevention habits, such as always checking fire sources before going to bed.

Fires

Keeping yourself safe in the event of fires

When a fire breaks out, it will be necessary to call the fire department, try to extinguish the fire, and evacuate! Assess the fire situation and respond calmly and flexibly.

**A fire
breaks
out**

**① Inform
your neighbors**

Call 119

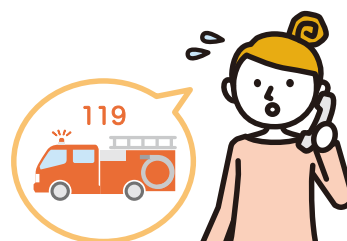
Shout loudly

Don't try to extinguish the fire alone - shout "fire!" loudly! Yell out to your family and neighbors for help. If you find you cannot speak, bang pots, frying pans, or other objects to alert them.



Calmly call 119

Call even in the event of a small fire



Example of a call

(The quotes in speech marks are the caller)

- ① This is 119 Fire Department. Is there a fire?
Is it an emergency? "There's a fire"
- ② What is your address? "XX-1-1, Kofu City"
- ③ Is anything burning? "XX is burning"
- ④ What is your name and phone number?
"My name is Hanako Kofu. My phone number is 237-1161."

Let's double check! Fire prevention measures!



Residential fire extinguishers

Place an extinguisher near the kitchen, in a hallway, in the corner of the entryway, or some other easy-to-access location in case of an emergency.



Earthquake-sensitive circuit breaker

A device that detects strong tremors caused by earthquakes and automatically shuts off electricity. It is even more effective to install this kind of breaker alongside ground fault circuit interrupters and fire extinguishers.



Ground fault circuit interrupter

A device that is attached to the power distribution board and automatically cuts off electricity throughout the house in approximately 0.1 seconds if an electrical leakage occurs anywhere in the house.



Household fire alarm

Most fire deaths occur while the occupants are sleeping. The Fire Service Act requires all residences to have fire alarms installed in their homes. These are very effective in preventing delays in escaping from fire. It is recommended that these are replaced every 10 years.

Let's see how we should extinguish fires!

It is said that initial extinguishing with a fire extinguisher is possible until the fire reaches the ceiling. It is also important to loudly warn people around you of the fire and work together to extinguish it. When tempura oil or a deep fryer is on fire, never pour water on it! Explosive flames can spread and oil can splatter, making it extremely dangerous.

② Initial fire extinguishing

Extinguish with a fire extinguisher, water, etc.

Danger

Never use water on an oil fire, as it will cause a steam explosion!

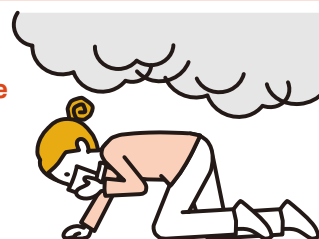


If the fire reaches the ceiling or smoke fills the room, give up trying to extinguish it and escape quickly!

③ Evacuation

Evacuate as quickly as possible!

To prevent the spread of fire, close the doors and windows to block oxygen flow!



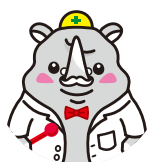
Evacuation tips

- Don't think about what you're wearing or about any valuables left in the house!
- Once you've escaped, never return to the building!
- While moving through the smoke, cover your mouth and nose with a handkerchief or the cuff of your clothing, get down low, and evacuate using the wall as a guide!
- If in an apartment building, escape to the lower floors. Do not use the elevator!

Let's check together!



Why should we be careful not to inhale smoke during a fire?
Besides checking fire prevention equipment and keeping the inside and outside of our homes tidy and organized, are there other steps we can take on a daily basis?



Smoke from fires contains toxic gases such as carbon monoxide, which is very dangerous and can cause loss of consciousness if inhaled. Since many people die in house fires due to a delay in escaping, be sure to establish cooperative arrangements with your neighbors in advance to protect elderly and disabled residents.