



Fire Department

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MEDIA ADVISORY CLOTHES DRYER FIRES

According to the US Consumer Products Safety Commission, annually, there are 15,500 residential fires caused by clothes dryers to which local fire departments respond. These fires resulted in an average of 10 civilian deaths, 310 injuries, and \$84.4 million in damage each year.

In one recent 24-hour period in the City of Milwaukee, there were two fires directly related to clothes dryers that caused over \$13,000 damage.

These fires are easily preventable by a few simple steps:

1. Have a working smoke detector on each level of your home.
2. Clean the lint filter each time you use the dryer.
3. Have the interior of the dryer cleaned professionally once a year.
4. Use metal ducting material instead of plastic or vinyl.
5. Do not overload the dryer.
6. Do not use the dryer when no one is home or after everyone is asleep.
7. Check the gas piping and electrical cord for faulty areas.

Following these safety tips will reduce your chance of having a clothes dryer fire. It is your responsibility to make your home fire safe.

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