

# Unexpected Ways Fires Start

## #6 Source: Smoking

### The Problem:

Smoking has been the leading cause of home fire deaths for decades!

### A True Fire Story:

Two adults were displaced and sustained minor burns in SW Roanoke when their apartment caught fire after smoking materials were improperly discarded on their porch. The business below the apartment suffered major damage.

#### The Statistics:

5%  
of fires,  
23%  
of deaths

**If a cigarette smolders** in the bed clothes or drops on the carpet when the smoker falls asleep, the gases from smoldering fabrics will actually lull the smoker into a deeper and deeper sleep. Live butts that fall between cushions or are tossed into trash cans can take hours to ignite and when they finally do, the household's in bed, asleep!

Cigarette ignites bedding—unstable ashtray



### The Solution:

- Don't smoke in bed or while you are tired.
- It's best to smoke outside!
- Use large ashtrays on tables.
- Soak ashtray contents under the faucet before throwing cigarette butts in the trash.
- Use a sign like the one shown above to get your point across!



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