

Consumer Corner

A Quick Guide To Fire-Safe Products

(NAPSA)—In the United States, a home fire occurs every 83 seconds. A smart way to reduce the risk of fire is by buying those common household items that have fire-safety features for added protection. Here, from the fire safety experts at The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. is a short *Fire Sense* guide of products, approximate prices and a list of suppliers.

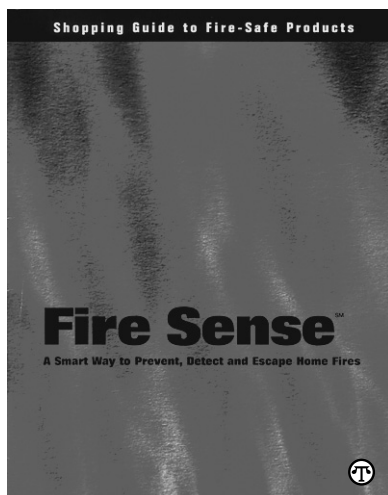
Always purchase appliances that are listed with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL), an independent, not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization.

Auto Shut-Off Toaster Oven or Coffeemaker—This feature can minimize the risk of fire if the appliance is left unattended and continues to heat. Some toasters have cool-touch exteriors that prevent burns. They range in price from \$80 to \$200. Coffeemaker prices range from \$20 to \$200. Suppliers include: Alsto's, Black & Decker, Chef's Catalog and QVC.

Cookware—You can also get steam release cookware lids that automatically vent steam to prevent boilovers. Price range; \$12 to \$21. Suppliers include Practica, QVC "Intelligent Know" brand.

Wall-Mounted Heater—it plugs directly into a wall to eliminate the danger of knocking over a floor model. You can even get one with a built-in night light for added safety. It can be found for \$38 to \$73 at Brookstone, Improvements, QVC and Sporty's.

Smoke Alarm—one comes with an escape light that turns on



A new booklet can help you purchase products best set to protect your home and family from fire.

automatically when the alarm sounds. It costs \$19 to \$28 at Miller's Office Products or QVC.

Fire Escape Ladder—To help you get out the window of a multi-story home, there are portable folding escape ladders in various sizes. These cost between \$37 and \$160 and can be found at Brookstone, HMP Industries, Improvements, Lowe's, LS&S Group, Perfectly Safe, Practica, QVC, Solutions, Sporty's, and Stacks and Stacks.

A free booklet called *Fire Sense Shopping Guide to Fire-Safe Products* is available by writing to: The Hartford, Fire Sense, 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06489 or by visiting www.thehartford.com/firesense.