

SAFETY SENSE

Smoking—Kick This Fire Risk

(NAPSA)—More people die in home fires started by smoking materials than in any other type of fire. These fires start when lighted tobacco products, most often cigarettes, are improperly discarded or abandoned and ignite mattresses, bedding, upholstered furniture, trash and other combustible items. Adapting these *Fire Sense* behaviors, from the safety experts at The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., can help you minimize the risk of a fire caused by smoking materials:

- If you smoke, consider quitting or refraining from smoking in your home. Do not allow others to smoke in your home. Smoking puts everyone in the house at risk, not just you.

- Never smoke in bed, when sleepy or when you have used medications or alcohol that could make you drowsy.

- Use large, heavy, no-tip ashtrays.

- Extinguish smoking materials thoroughly to prevent butts and ashes from igniting other materials. Douse smoking materials under water.

- Use child-resistant lighters, and keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

Furnishing—In The Hot Seat

Consumers should be aware that upholstered furnishings may be one of the greatest fire hazards in their home. Upholstered seating and mattresses contain foams



Smoking is responsible for 21 percent of home fire injuries among older adults. A few simple precautions can help you minimize this risk.

and fillers that burn rapidly, release tremendous heat, produce toxic gases and consume oxygen rapidly.

Careless smoking and small open flames, such as those from matches or lighters are the leading causes of fatal fires involving upholstered furniture and heaters also start these types of fires.

If smoking is allowed in your home, be sure to check under cushions and in crevices for discarded cigarettes, ashes, or mattresses when a person has smoked in a room. Also, remember to never rest ashtrays on upholstery.

A free booklet called *Fire Sense: A Smart Way to Prevent, Detect and Escape Home Fires* is available by writing to: The Hartford, Fire Sense, 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06489 or by visiting www.thehartford.com/firesense.