

SAFETY IN THE HOUSES



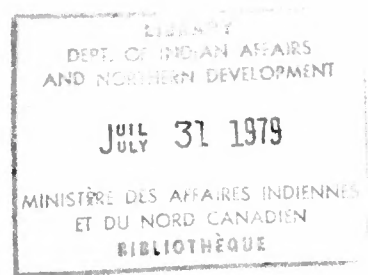
Education Branch

E100.E36 Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

533

Ottawa, Canada

1968



SAFETY IN THE HOUSES

Illustrated by: John Griffith

Adult Education Program
Rental Housing Project

Foreword

This booklet is prepared for use in Phase IV of the Rental Housing Education program to give factual information on how to live safely in the rental houses and adapt to a new pattern of living.

It is experimental only and therefore subject to revision.

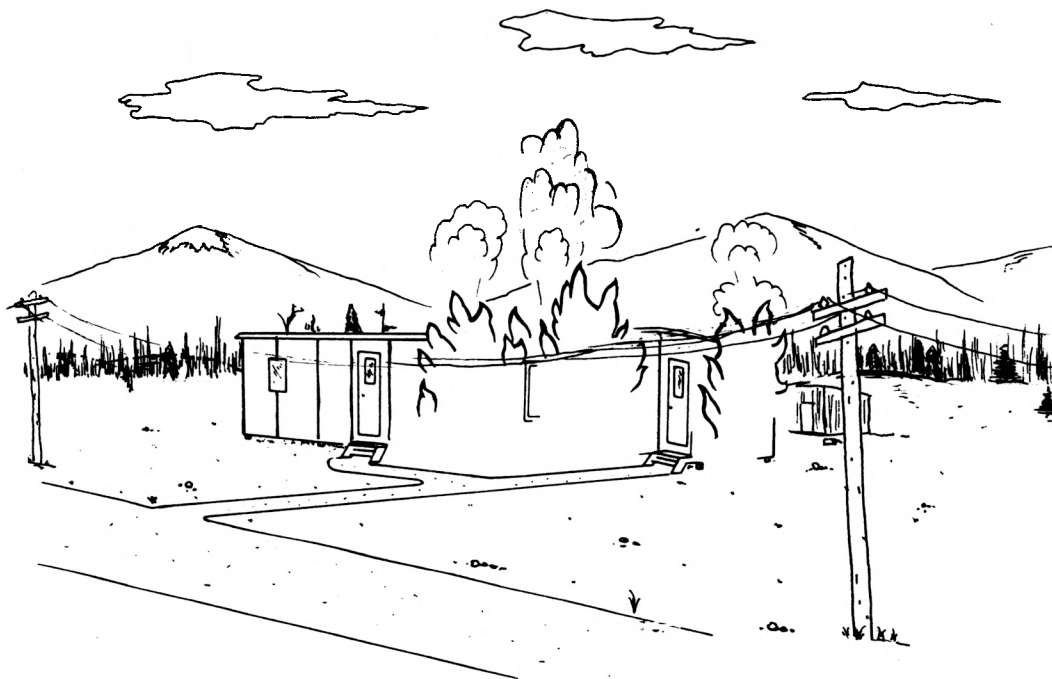
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. W. Simpson".

D. W. Simpson
Assistant Director
Education Branch

CONTENTS

	page
Accidents Can Happen.....	1
The Dangers of Fire	
The Houses Will Burn.....	3
Some Things That Cause Fires..	5
How to Prevent Fires.....	7
Materials That Burn.....	13
Materials Must Get Hot Enough To Burn.....	15
A Fire Needs Air.....	17
How To Put Out a Fire.....	19
Ways of Smothering a Fire.....	21
Safety in Using Matches.....	25
What to Do If Your Clothing Catches on Fire.....	27
Rescuing Someone From A Burning Building.....	29

Other Accidents That Can Happen	31
Burns and Scalds.....	33
How to Prevent Burns.....	35
How to Prevent Scalds.....	37
What to do for Small Skin	
Burns.....	39
What to do for Serious Burns..	41
Cuts.....	43
How to Prevent Cuts.....	45
What to do for Cuts.....	49
Falls.....	51
How to Prevent Falls.....	53
What to do If A Bone is Broken	59
How to Put a Splint On a	
Broken Limb.....	61
Electricity.....	65
Automatic Safety Controls.....	67
How To Reset A Circuit-Breaker	69
How To Replace A Fuse.....	71
Safety in Using Electricity.....	73
Other Dangers.....	79
How to Make Your Home Safe.....	81



A house destroyed

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN

Many accidents may happen in a house. Most accidents are caused by people acting foolishly or being ignorant of the dangers.

People living in houses should be aware of the constant danger of fire. This is particularly true in the north where stoves must be used most of the year for heat.

It is a calamity if your house burns down. You may be without shelter from the extreme cold. A member of your family may receive serious injury or die in a fire.



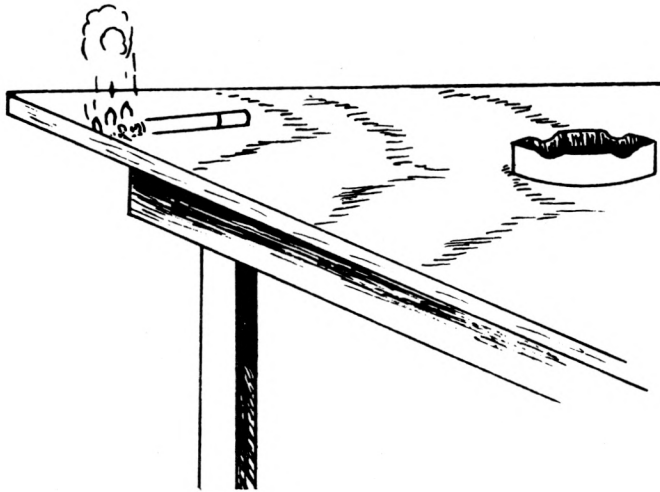
Fire spreads quickly

THE HOUSES WILL BURN

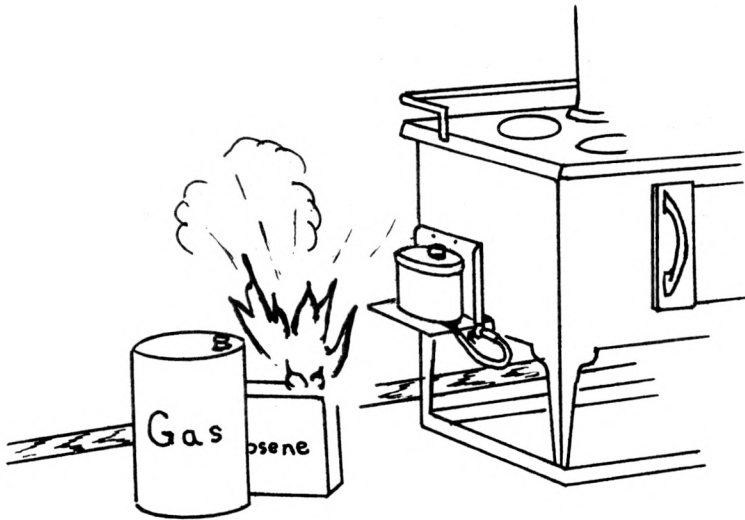
The rental houses are made of pre-fabricated wooden panels. The interior walls are also made of wood. Unfinished wooden walls become tinder dry in the warmth from the stove, heater or furnace.

If a fire gets out of control in a house, there is little you can do to save the house.

You should know what to do to prevent fires and what to do in case of fire.



A forgotten cigarette



Fuels explode near heat

SOME THINGS THAT CAUSE FIRES

Fires may be caused by people smoking in bed.

A lighted cigarette butt thrown into a corner, dropped on the floor or forgotten on a table may cause a fire.

Soot collecting in stove pipes may start to burn and cause a fire.

Gasolene or kerosene close to a stove, heater or furnace may burst into flames.

Frayed electrical cords or faulty wiring may overheat and cause sparks to fly causing a fire.



Smoking in bed is dangerous



Playing safe

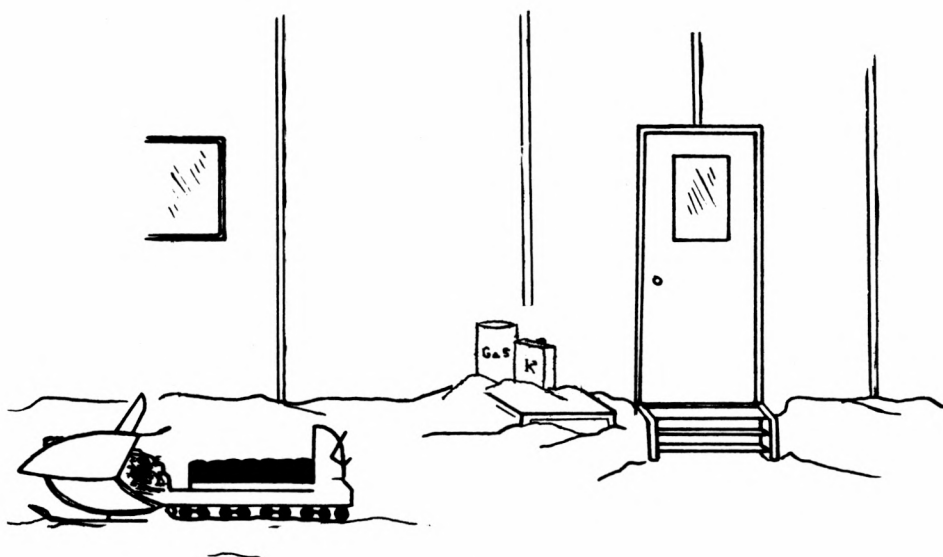
HOW TO PREVENT FIRES

Never smoke in bed. You may fall asleep and set the bedding on fire.

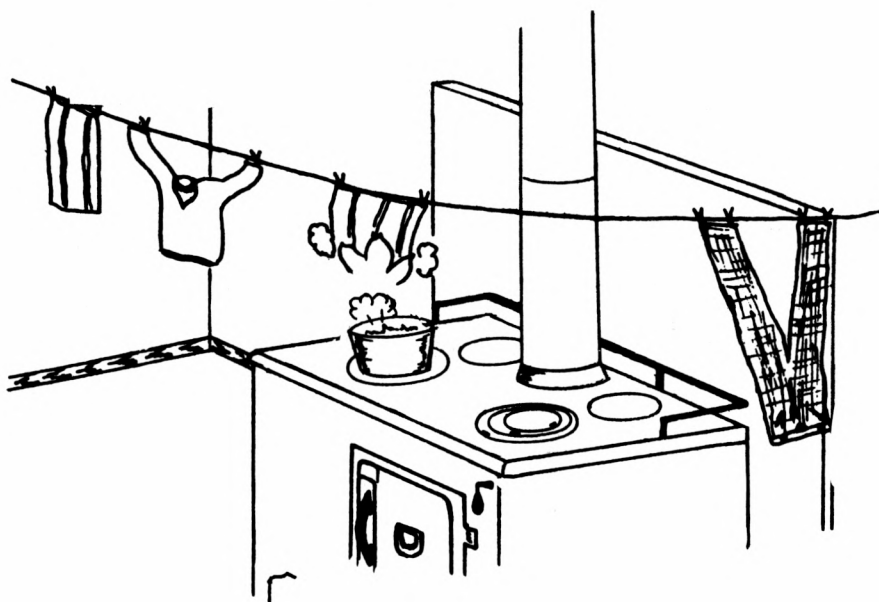
Make certain that lighted cigarette butts are out before discarding them. Get in the habit of butting them out in an ashtray or receptacle of sand.

Never go away and leave a lighted cigarette lying on a table or counter top. You may forget it.

Put your cigarette out before picking up a child. There will be less danger of clothing catching on fire.



Keep fuels outside



This clothesline may cause a fire.

HOW TO PREVENT FIRES

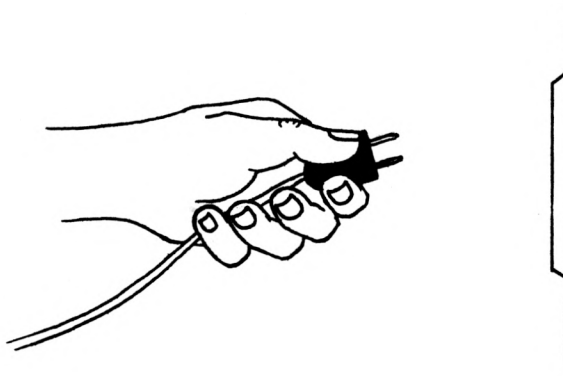
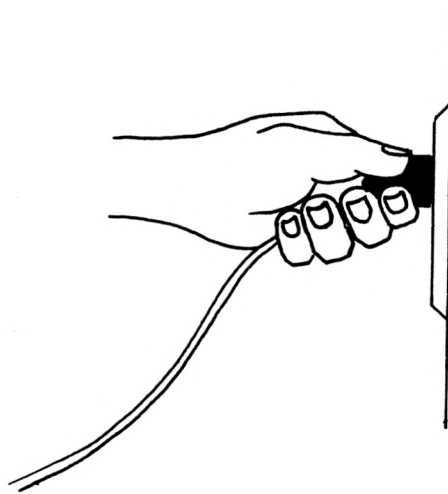
Store gasoline and kerosene outside the house.

Remember that it is dangerous to use gasoline or kerosene to start an open fire. The contents of the tin may explode into flames.

Never leave children playing alone beside an open fire.

Hang clothes to dry on a line near but not over the stove or heater.

Keep matches in a covered can or jar on a shelf out of the reach of children.



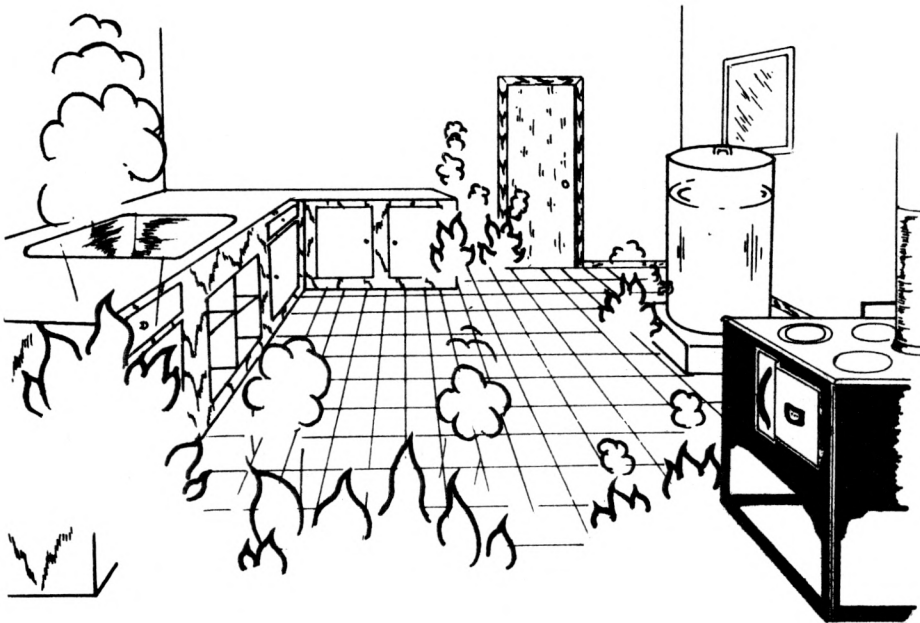
Disconnect an electric cord this way

HOW TO PREVENT FIRES

Teach children that electricity is dangerous. This includes electric cords, electric wall switches, electric wall outlets and electric appliances.

Learn the correct method to disconnect electrical equipment. To do this, take firm hold of the rubber or plastic base at the end of the cord and pull. Pulling on the cord may cause electric wires to separate and sparks to fly.

Keep electric cords, electrical wiring and electrical equipment such as toasters and percolators repaired.



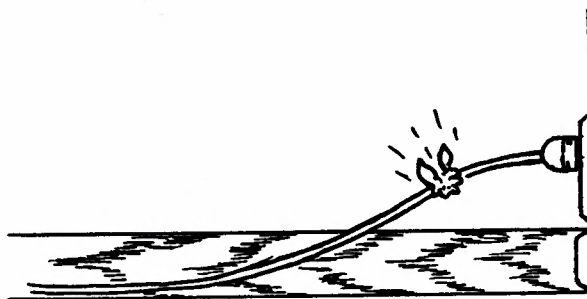
Most material will burn

MATERIALS THAT BURN

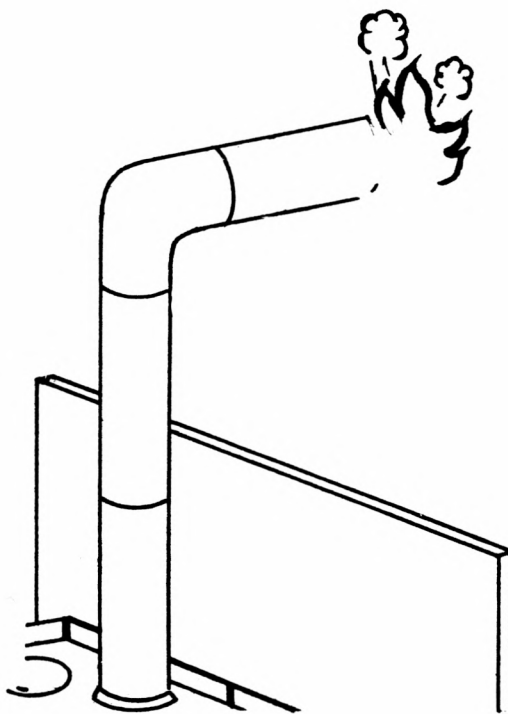
There are many things that will burn in a home. Wooden walls, cupboards and furniture will burn.

Drapes, clothing, towels, bedding and bedrolls are easily set on fire. Oily or greasy rags are particularly dangerous.

It is important to know how to prevent fires.



A frayed electrical cord is dangerous



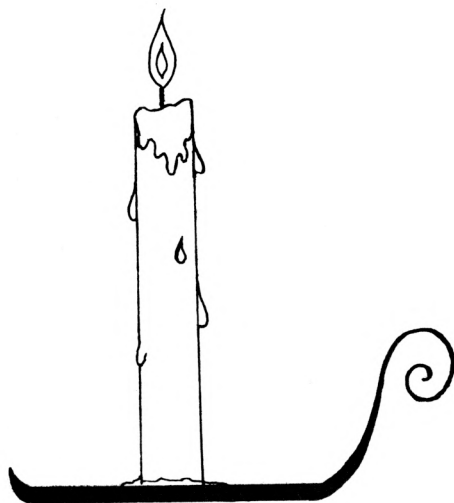
A dirty stove pipe may cause a fire

MATERIALS MUST GET HOT ENOUGH TO BURN

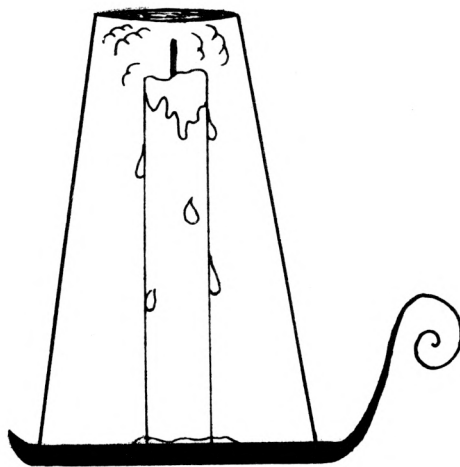
Stoves and heaters are hot unless they are turned off. Drying clothes over a stove or heater is dangerous. Clothes drying too close to a stove or heater may start a fire.

Heavy deposits of soot in stove pipes may start to burn. When this happens, stove pipes become red hot. A wooden wall can become hot enough to burst into flame. An asbestos sheet between the stove and the wall helps to eliminate this danger.

Sparks from frayed electrical cords or worn-out electrical equipment can set paper, dry wood or clothing on fire.



A fire needs air to burn

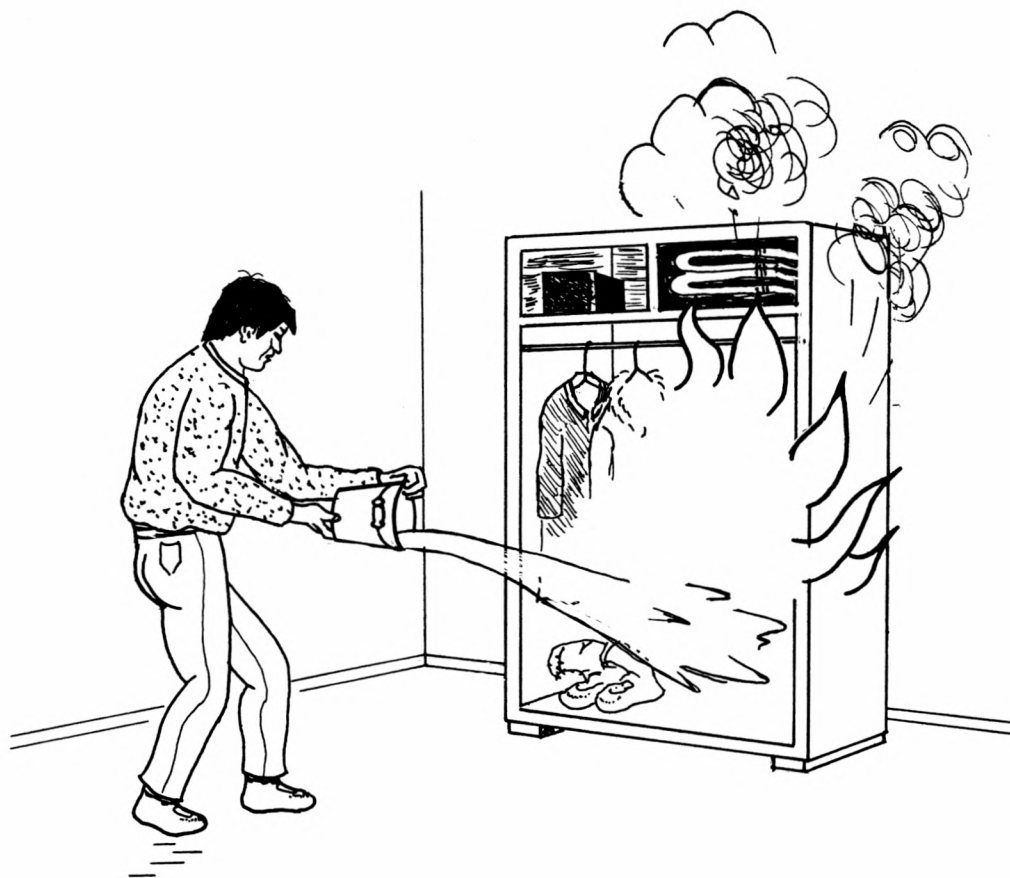


Without air fire dies

A FIRE NEEDS AIR

A fire needs air in order to burn. Air is all around us. If a fire starts, the movement of the air helps to fan the flames and spread the fire to other places.

You should know how to control the flames and put a fire out.



Use water on paper or clothing

HOW TO PUT OUT A FIRE

If it is an ordinary fire involving paper, wood or clothing, pour water on the flames.

If it is a grease or fat fire, do not use water. Water poured on hot fat causes it to splatter and spread the fire over a wider area.

See next page for Ways of Smothering a Fire.

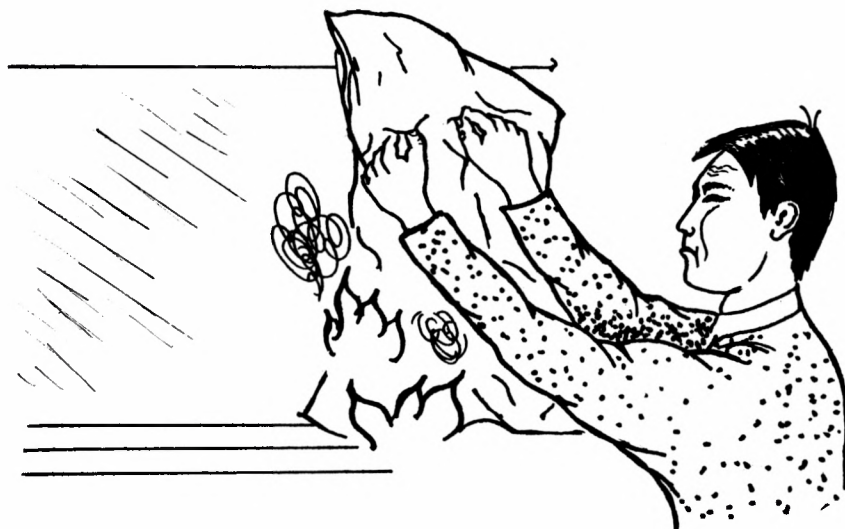


Smother a grease fire with sand or salt

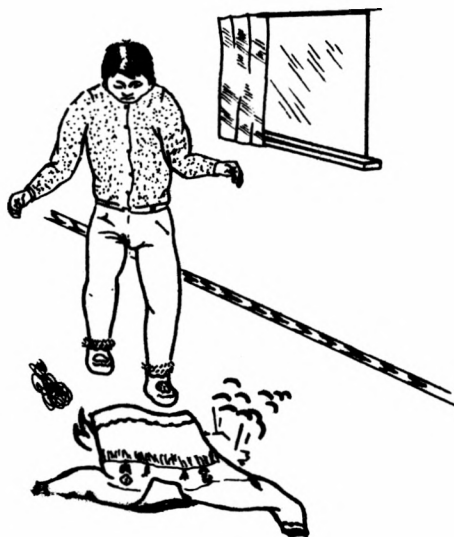
WAYS OF SMOTHERING A FIRE

If meat or fat catches on fire in the frying pan, put a cover on the pan. As soon as you shut out the air, the flames go out.

If fat splatters out of the pan onto the stove and starts to burn, pour sand on the flaming spots. During the summer, fill a pail with sand and keep it behind the stove for such emergencies.



Pull burning drapes off the window



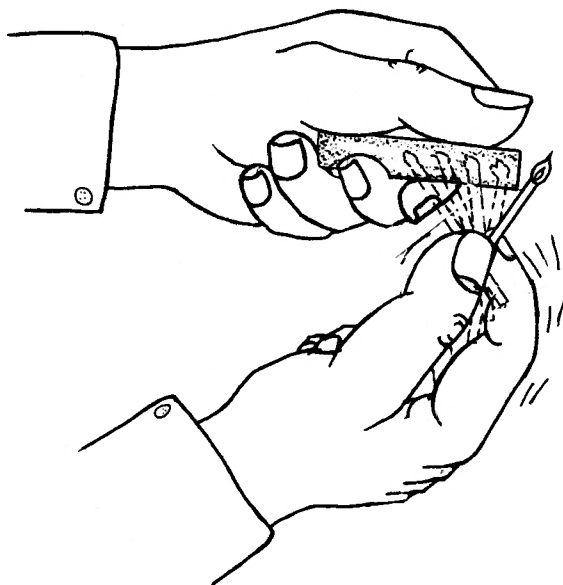
Using a parka, smother the flames

WAYS OF SMOTHERING A FIRE

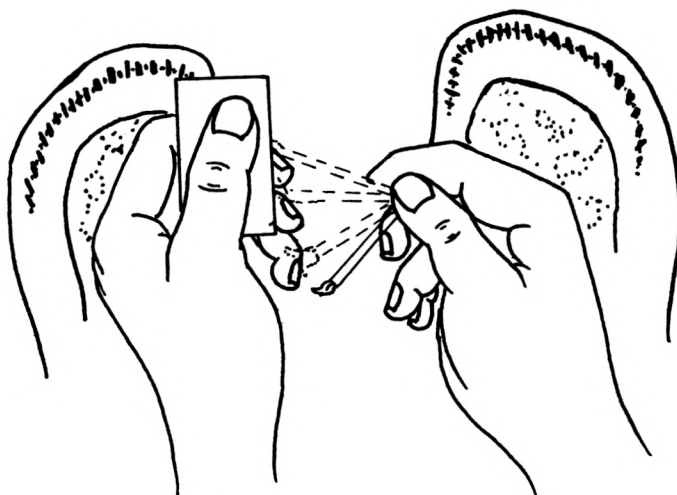
The new rental houses have fire extinguishers. Use these for putting out small fires or if a fire is just starting.

The Housing Association Council director will show you how to use them and arrange for recharging when necessary. Fire Extinguishers must be recharged after using. Do not hang them back on the wall.

If drapes catch on fire, pull them down, throw a parka or blanket over the flaming drapes and stamp out the flames.



This



Not this

SAFETY IN USING MATCHES

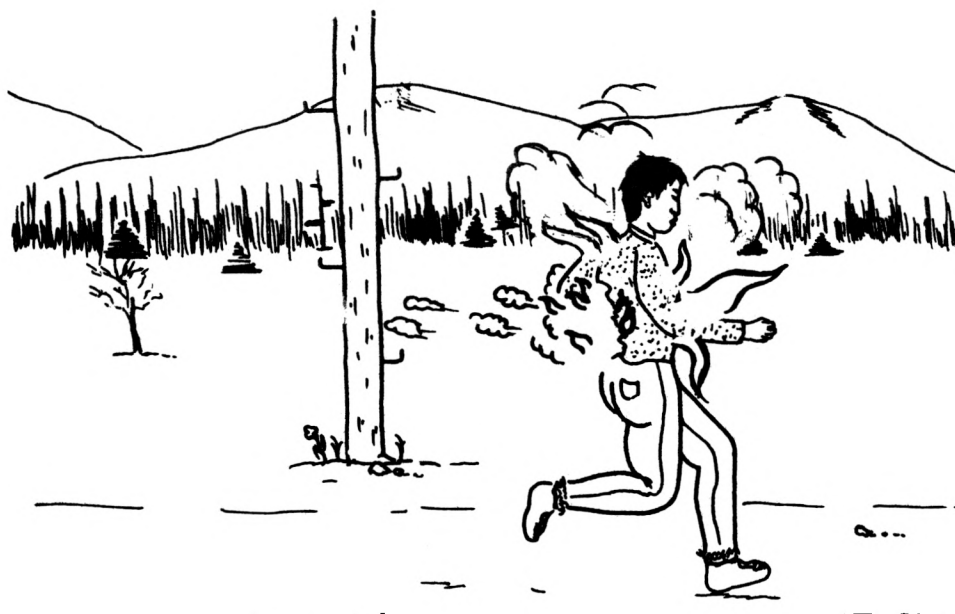
Always strike a match away from you. This will eliminate the danger of the lighted tip falling on your clothing.

Break a match in two before throwing away the pieces. You will then be sure that the flame is out.

Keep matches in a covered tin or jar on a shelf out of the reach of children.



This



Not this

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CLOTHING CATCHES ON FIRE

Remember not to run. If you run, you will soon be surrounded by flame.

Roll on the floor trying to smother the flames by pushing your burning clothing under you. Call for help.

If someone is there, they should throw a parka or blanket over the burning clothes and pat out the flames.



It's safer on the floor

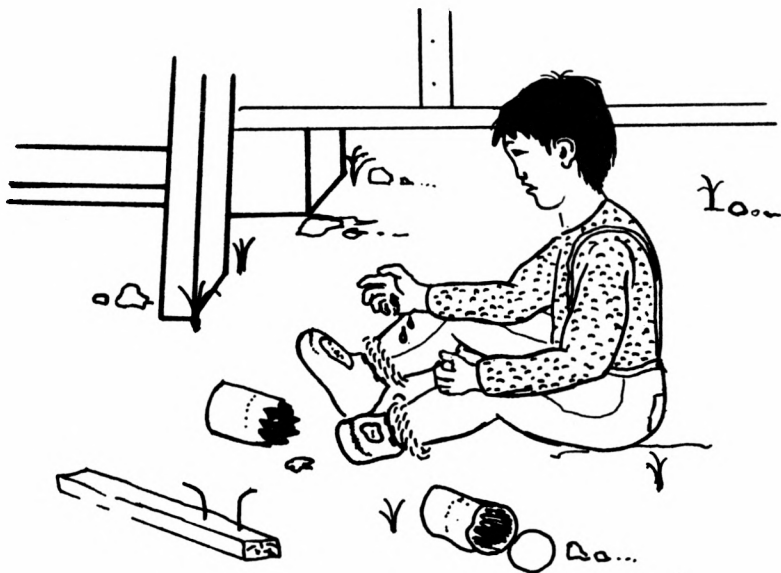
WHEN RESCUING SOMEONE FROM A BURNING BUILDING

To protect yourself:

1. Cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth to prevent the hot air from burning your lungs.
2. Move about on your hands and knees. The coolest and best air is near the floor.
3. Always feel a door before opening it. If it feels hot, do not open it. You could be caught in a blast of hot air and flame.



This



Not this

OTHER ACCIDENTS THAT MAY HAPPEN

There are many other accidents that may happen in a house. Severe burns, scalds, cuts, falls, poisoning, shooting accidents, electric shock or electrocution are some of the things that may happen at any time.

You should know how to prevent these accidents and what to do if they happen.



Learn how to prevent this

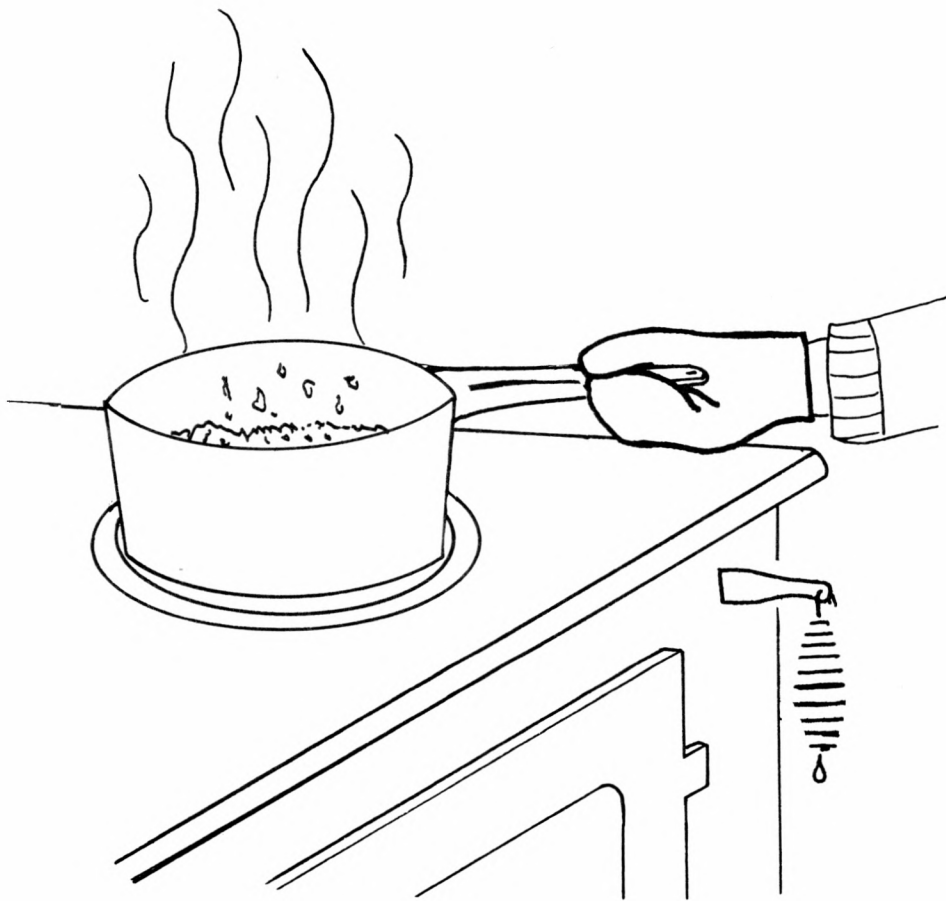
BURNS AND SCALDS

Burns are caused by fire or extreme heat.

A scald is a burn caused by very hot liquids or steam.

Burns and scalds involving a large part of a person's skin may cause serious illness. If one-half or more of your skin is destroyed, death is almost certain.

You should know how to protect yourself and others from burns and scalds.



Use a potholder or oven mitt to protect
your hands

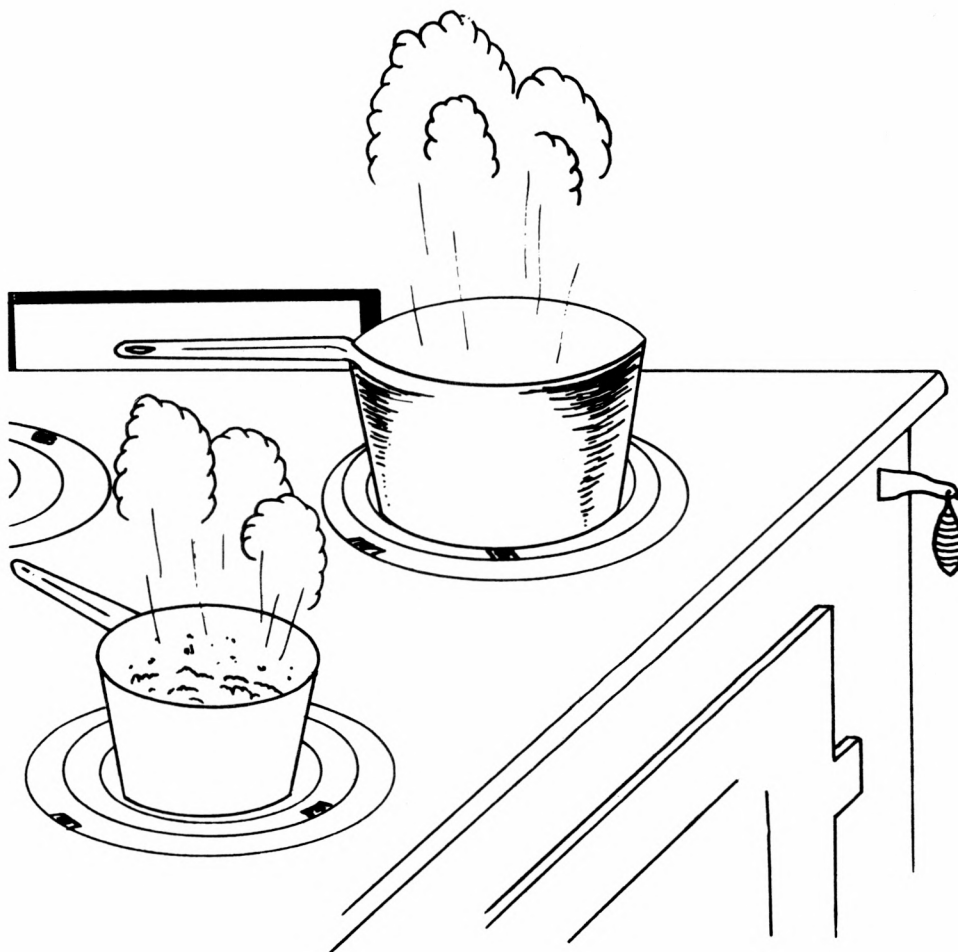
HOW TO PREVENT BURNS

Keep children away from hot stoves, heaters, lamps and open fires.

Protect your hands from burns by using a pot holder or oven mitt when moving pots and pans on the stove or using the oven for baking.

Keep matches in a covered glass container on shelves out of the reach of children.

Never use gasoline or kerosene to start a fire.



Keep pot handles turned in

HOW TO PREVENT SCALDS

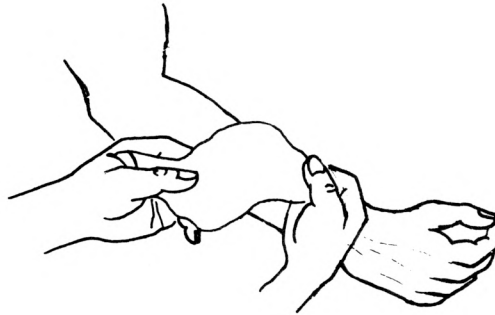
Turn the handles of pots and pans in from the edge of the stove so that small children cannot reach them.

Never leave a tub of hot water unguarded on the floor where a small child could topple in.

Be careful of steam from the spout of a teakettle or pot of boiling water. Steam can cause a serious burn.



Wash the burn gently



Cover burn with a clean cloth



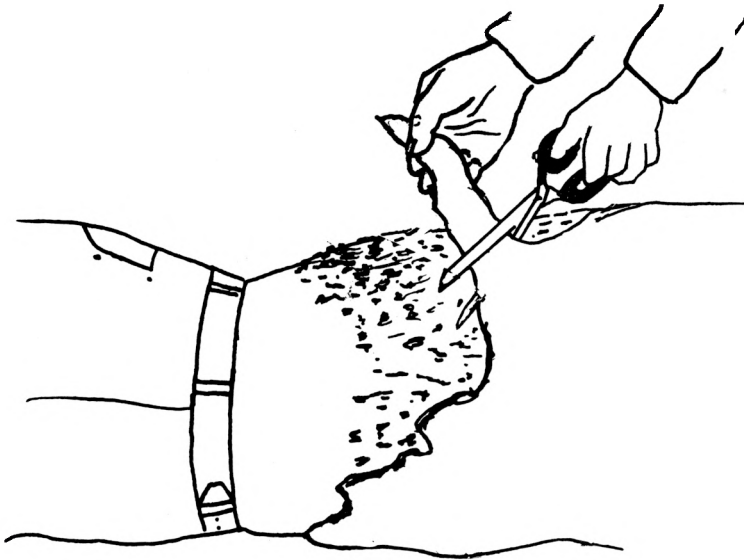
Bandage to hold cloth in place

WHAT TO DO FOR SMALL SKIN BURNS

Wash the burn gently with warm soapy water. This will help to destroy the germs that cause infection.

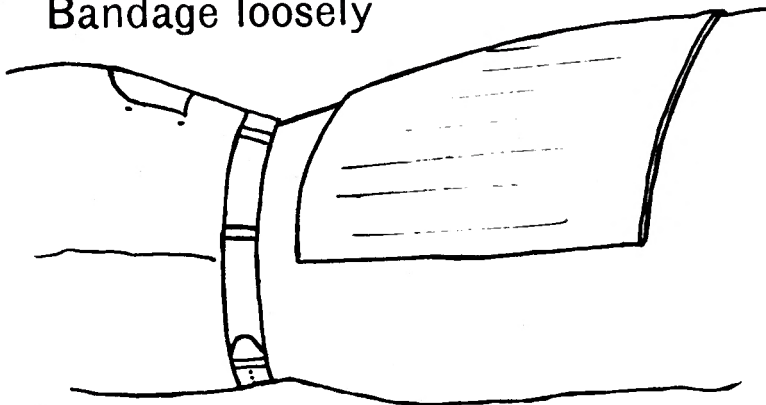
Cover the burn with a clean piece of cloth. Freshly laundered old sheets, towels or rags torn into the size required are good.

Bandage the area to hold the dressing in place. Old sheets may be torn into strips to make bandages.



Cut away clothing

Bandage loosely



WHAT TO DO FOR SERIOUS BURNS

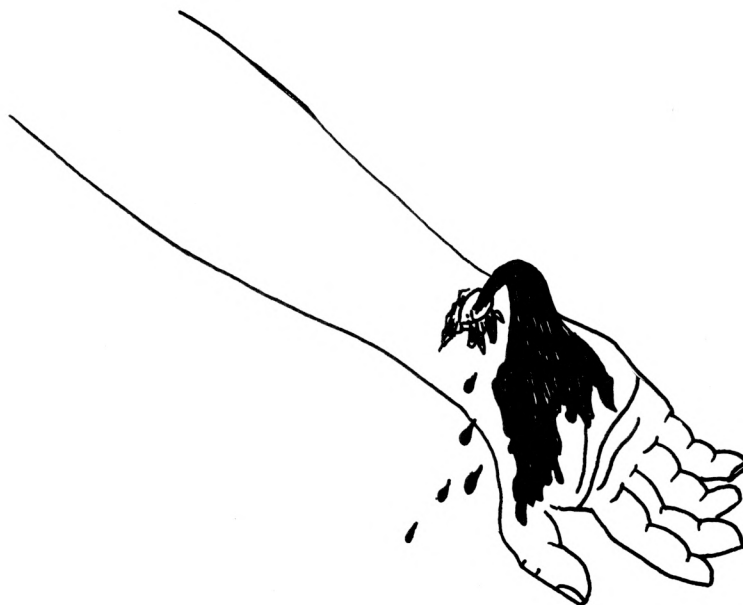
When large parts of the skin are burned:

Do not pull off clothing that is stuck. Cut away as much of the clothing as you can.

Cover the burn with a clean cloth. Bandage to hold the cloth in place. If the burn is over a very large area, put a freshly laundered sheet over the burn.

Give the person something to drink such as water or tea to restore the lost body fluids.

Get the person to a doctor or hospital as quickly as possible.



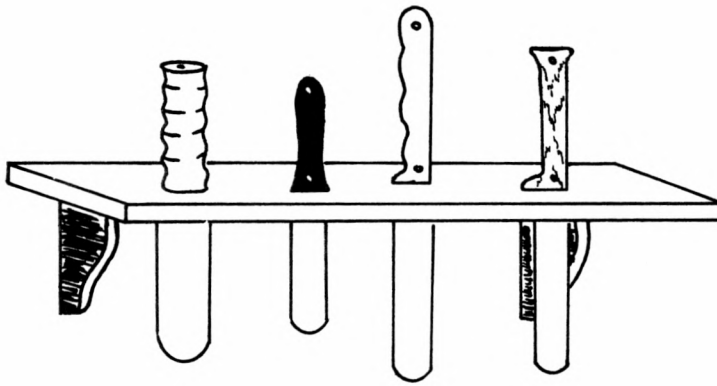
A cut artery

CUTS

Cuts are dangerous. You may bleed to death within minutes if an artery is cut. Cuts may become infected and cause much pain and suffering.

Cuts may be caused by sharp knives, broken bottles or glass, tin cans or old nails that have been thrown away.

You should know how to treat a cut.



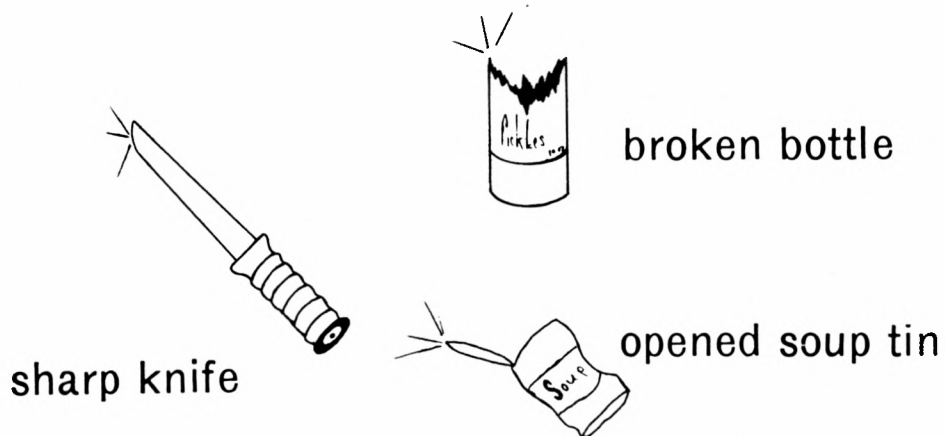
Keep sharp knives in a holder

HOW TO PREVENT CUTS

Keep knives or scissors in a box or special container out of the reach of children.

When using sharp knives, hold them by the handle and cut away from you. Cut on a board or flat surface.

Wash sharp knives one at a time. Hold by the handle when washing.



Objects that are dangerous



Put garbage in trash container

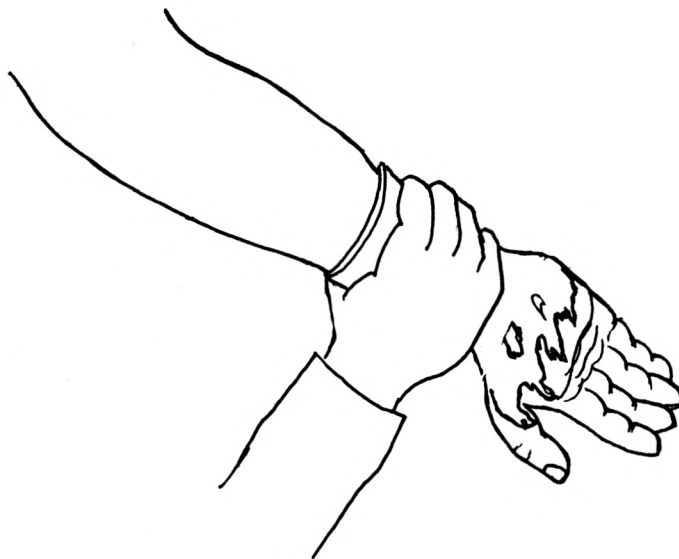
HOW TO PREVENT CUTS

Opened tin cans, broken bottles, old nails, pieces of wire, broken toys and broken furniture may cause cuts. Do not leave these things where children can play with them. Put them in the garbage to be hauled away.

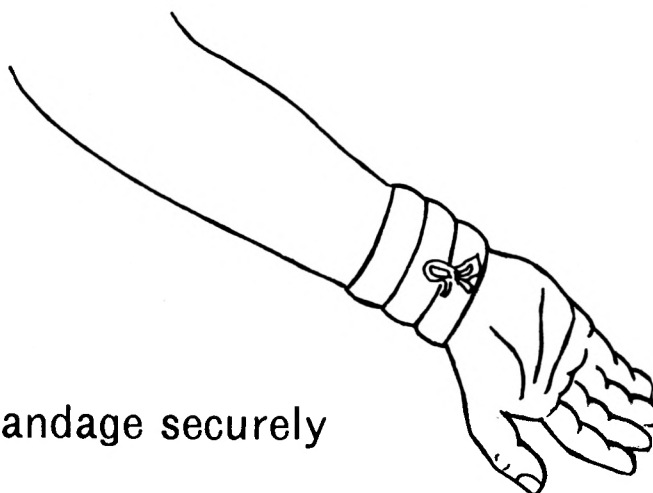
A good way to remove pieces of broken glass from the sink or other places is with a damp cloth or sponge.

Repair a broken window as soon as possible.

You should know how to treat a cut.



Use a thick pad



Bandage securely

WHAT TO DO FOR CUTS

Cover the cut with a clean cloth folded to make a thick pad. Bandage firmly to stop the bleeding and keep out the dirt and germs.

If blood is pouring out of the wound, use two or three pads and bandage more tightly. If the blood is spurting, an artery is cut. If at all possible get the person to a doctor as quickly as possible.



Children's playthings may cause
falls

FALLS

Children's playthings lying on the floor may cause someone to trip and fall.

Water and food spills on linoleum floors should be wiped up immediately to prevent falls. Broken or weak rungs on ladders should be repaired.



This



Not this

HOW TO PREVENT FALLS

Use a ladder for reaching high places. Chairs are dangerous as they may be slippery and will tip.

Keep the rungs of ladders repaired. If the rung is weak, replace with a new one.

Do not tip chairs back when sitting on them. Keep all four legs of the chair on the floor.

Buy indoor slippers with non-skid soles to wear in the house. Or sew a small piece of rubber or suede on socks or slippers to prevent slipping.

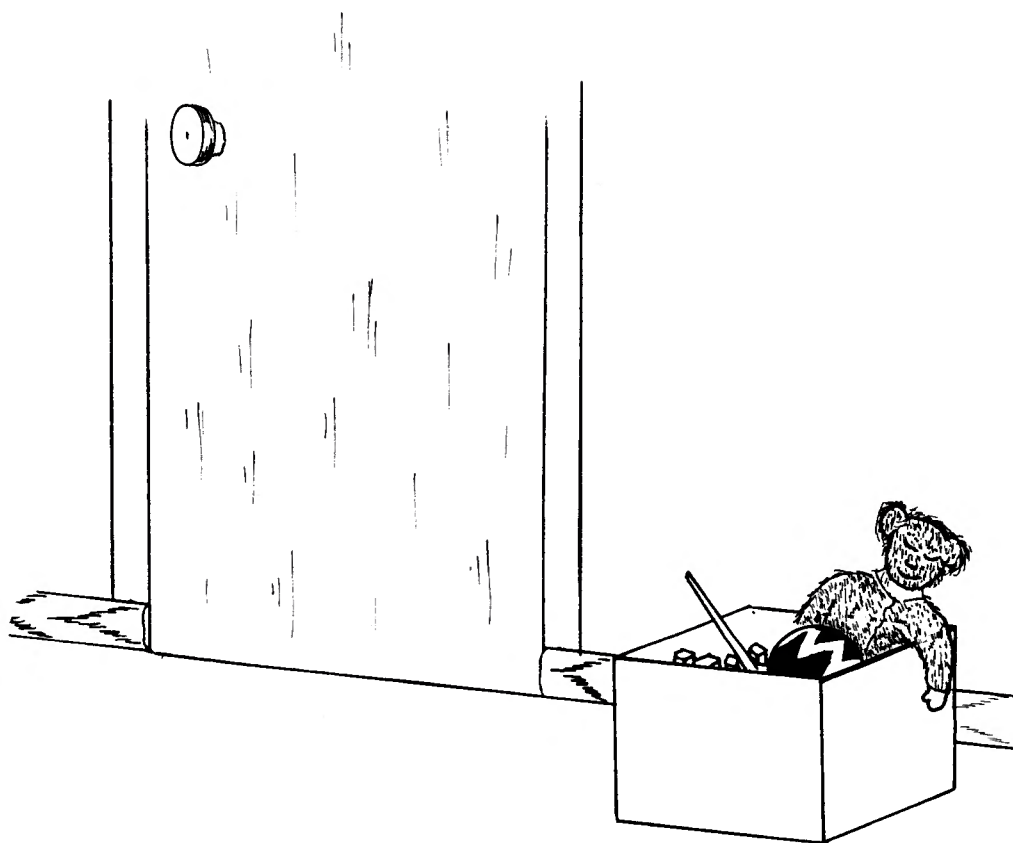


Wear dry, clean footwear in the house

HOW TO PREVENT FALLS

Wipe spills of water, grease or food off the floor immediately.

Remember that linoleum is slippery when wet so remove outdoor boots before entering the living room. Keep a mat at the outside entrance to step on when entering the house. A plastic tray for setting wet boots on will keep the linoleum dry and help prevent falls.



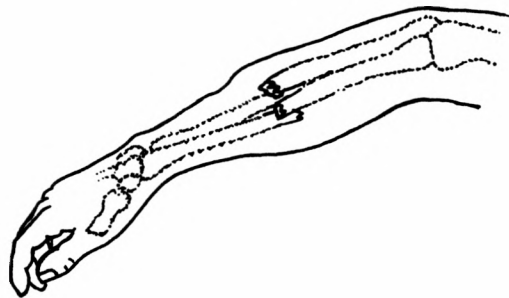
Playthings kept in a box or carton prevent falls

HOW TO PREVENT FALLS

Keep the floor free of playthings, clothing or anything that people may trip over.

Children should learn to play away from the main work area in the kitchen. Many accidents happen near the stove.

Teach children to put playthings away in a box and not to climb on kitchen counters or high furniture.

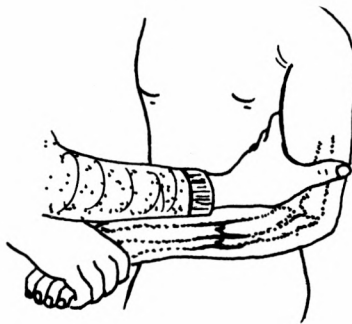


A broken arm

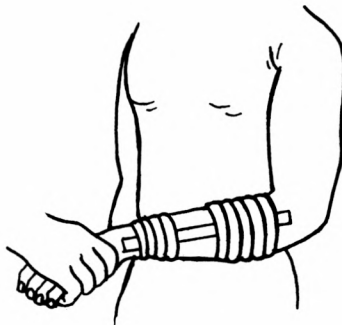
WHAT TO DO IF A BONE IS BROKEN

A broken bone has sharp ends which may cause damage to arteries and nerves. In order to prevent this, a splint is applied to the broken arm or leg to keep it from moving.

Some things that may be used for a splint are a long piece of metal or wood, the opposite leg of the person's body, a folded magazine or a pillow.



Apply traction by pulling

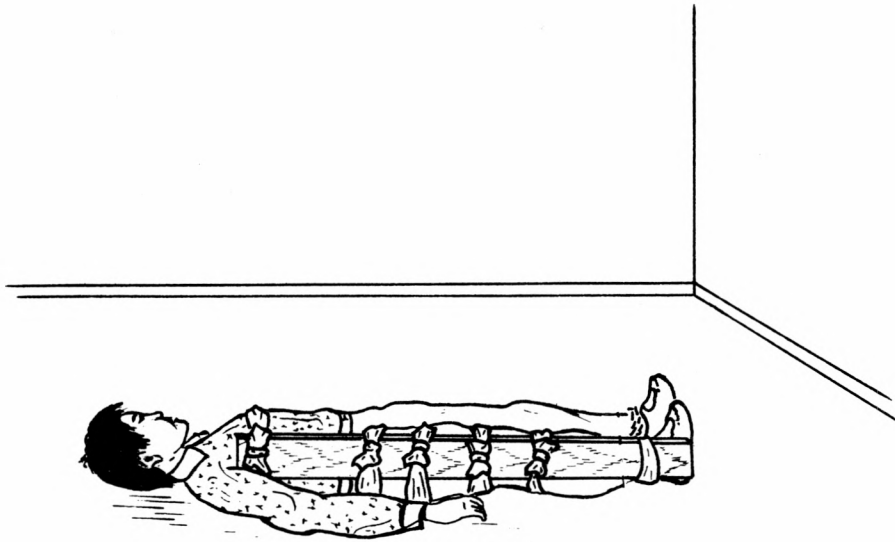


Bandage using splints

HOW TO PUT A SPLINT ON A BROKEN LIMB

Put the splint on before moving the person in order to prevent further injury.

Have someone steady and support the broken arm or leg while the splint is being put on. To do this, pull firmly on the hand or foot. This stretches the muscles tightly around the broken bone and straightens and steadies it.



A splint for a fractured thigh bone

HOW TO PUT A SPLINT ON A BROKEN LIMB

Fasten the broken arm or leg to the splint by bandaging above and below the break and at both ends of the splint. The bandage should be tight enough to hold the limb steady but not tight enough to cut off the blood supply.

Use pieces of rag to shove into the hollows between the straight splint and the normal curves of the leg or arm. Bony parts of the ankle, hip or elbow should be padded for protection.



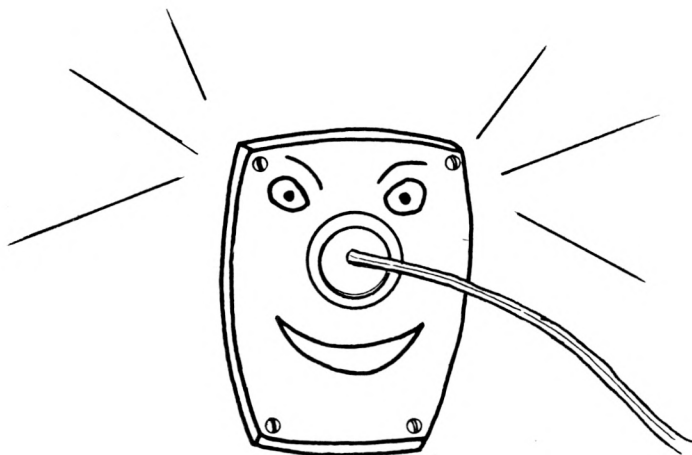
Wires carry electricity into houses

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is brought into your house by means of electric wires from a generating plant. These live wires are inside a protective covering. They are put inside the walls of the house out of reach as they are extremely dangerous.

Electricity makes life easier and more enjoyable by bringing light and power into the houses. The flick of a switch turns on electric lights and operates electric toasters, lamps, tea kettles, coffee makers, washing machines, refrigerators and electric stoves.

You should know how to use electricity safely.



This

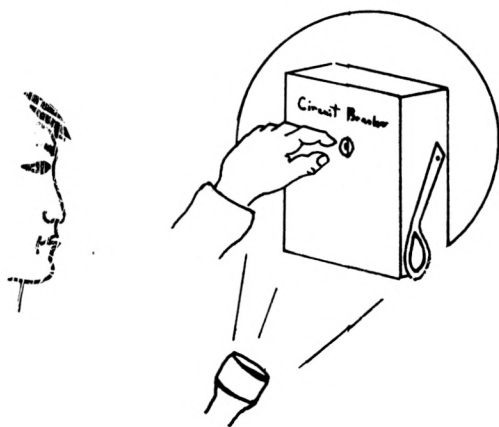


Not this

AUTOMATIC SAFETY CONTROLS

Safety controls used on electrical wiring may be either of two types—the circuit breaker or electric fuse controls.

If you overload the electric outlets with appliances, the safety controls automatically turn the current off and leave you without power. You must lessen the load on the circuit before resetting or it automatically shuts off again.

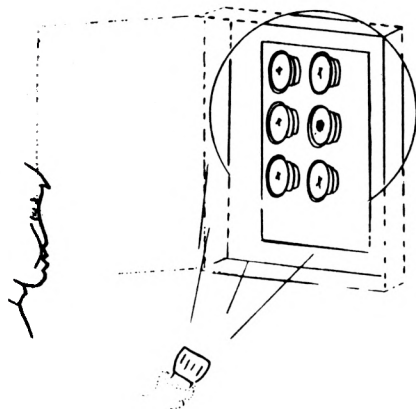


Push button to restore power

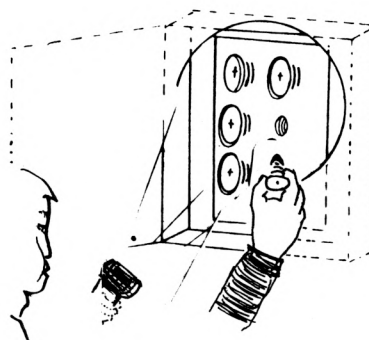
TO RESET THE CIRCUIT-BREAKER

If electricity is controlled by a circuit-breaker and the current shuts off, push the button on the circuit-breaker and the power will be automatically restored.

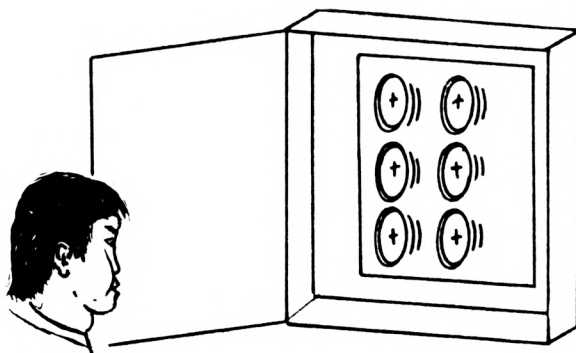
Ask the Housing Association Council director to show you where the circuit-breaker control button is before you move into your house.



A blown fuse



Replacing a fuse



Power restored

TO REPLACE A FUSE

Ask to be shown where the fuse box is. You will see a row of fuses with a number marked on the end. Each fuse controls electricity to a different part of the house. When a fuse blows , one part of the house will be without electricity.

A blown fuse looks dark in the centre. To replace it, unscrew the damaged fuse and replace with a new fuse. The power is now restored and will continue to work unless you overload the circuit again with too many electrical appliances.

You should keep extra fuses on hand for emergencies.

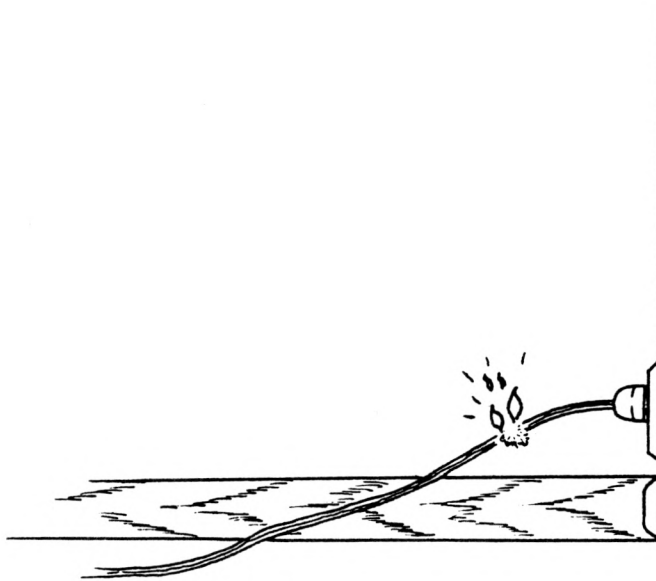


Dry hands help prevent shock

SAFETY IN USING ELECTRICITY

Dry your hands before handling electric cords or appliances. In this way you will avoid getting an electric shock.

Never stand in water and plug in an electrical appliance. Your body becomes a conductor for the electric current to pass through. This can kill you.



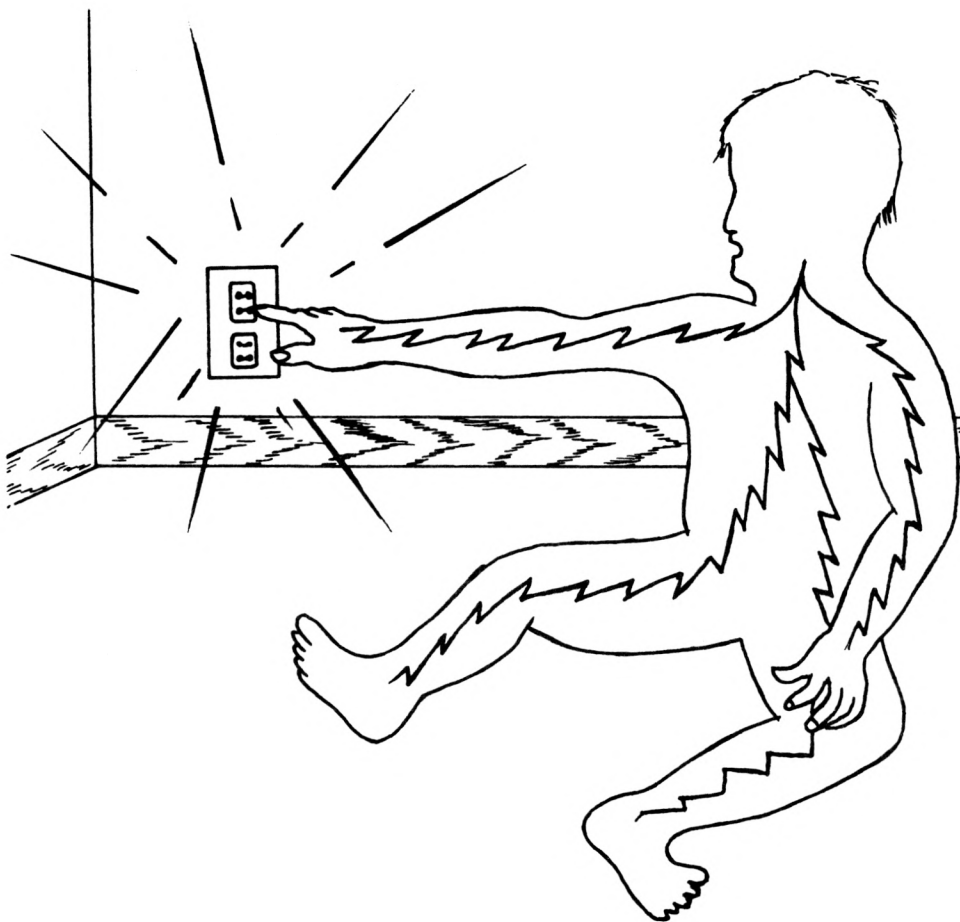
Frayed electrical cords need repairing

SAFETY IN USING ELECTRICITY

Use only one electrical appliance at a time in an electrical outlet. In this way you will avoid overloading the circuit and cutting off the power.

Frayed electrical cords or faulty electrical equipment may cause short-circuiting. You also run the danger of electric shock.

Never pull on the cord to disconnect an electrical appliance as the wires may separate causing short-circuiting.

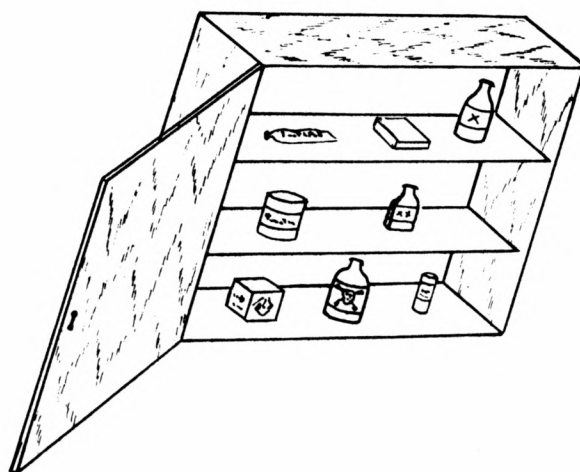


Keep children away from electric outlets

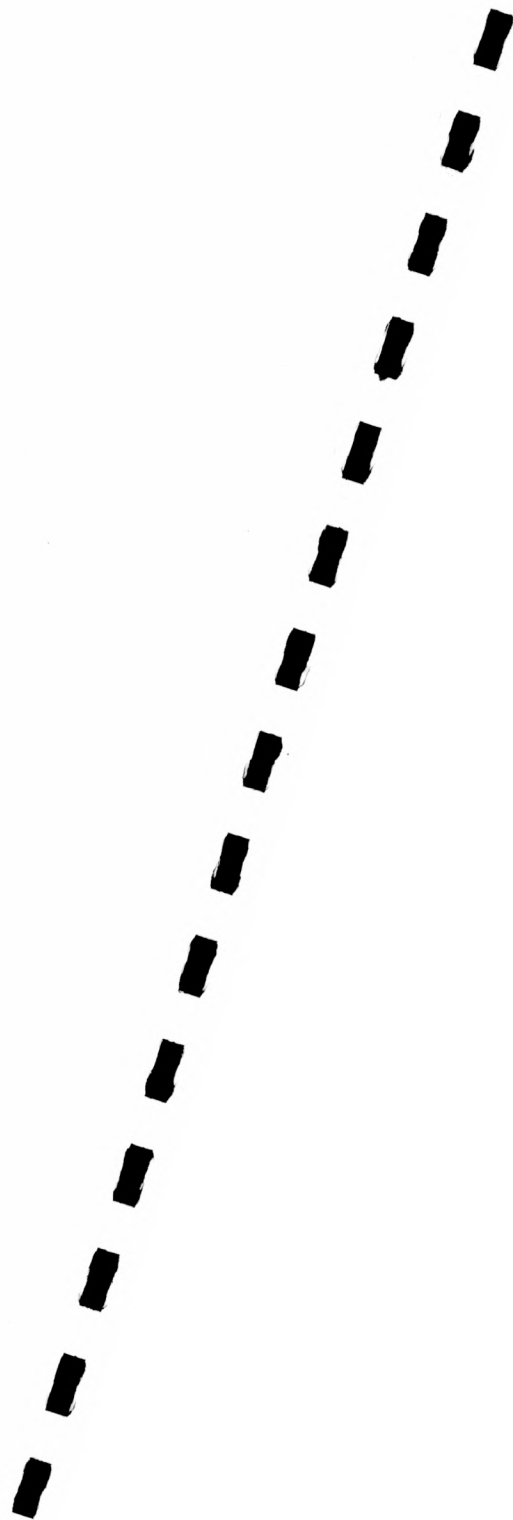
SAFETY IN USING ELECTRICITY

Teach children the dangers connected with electricity. Electrical outlets may be dangerous for children if they push damp fingers, bobby pins or other objects into them, They may receive a severe shock, or even be electrocuted (killed).

Put masking tape over electrical outlets if there are small children in the family.



Keep drugs and poisons out of reach of
children's hands



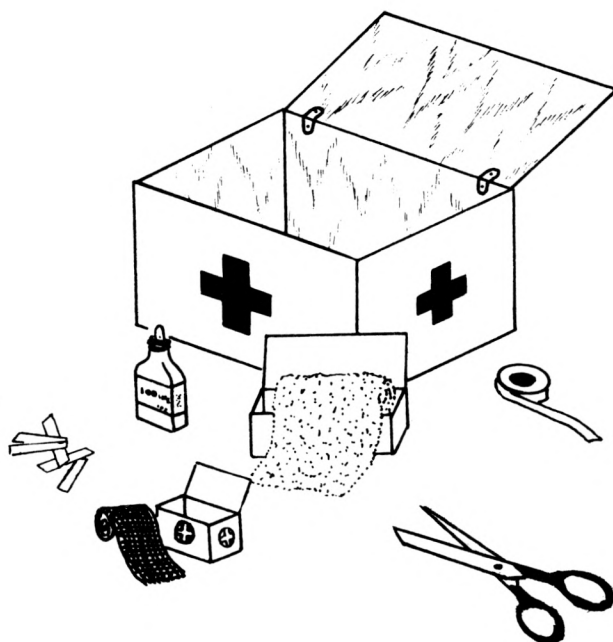
OTHER DANGERS

Keep guns and shells out of the reach of children. Remove the shells from guns that are not in use.

Keep drugs out of the reach of children. All drugs should be labelled. A safe rule is never to take or give unlabelled drugs.

Keep drawers and cupboard doors closed in order to prevent injury from sharp edges.

Keep poison out of the reach of children. Some cleaning materials are poisonous. If a child swallows poison, make him vomit. To do this, tickle the back of his throat with your fingers or have him drink a glass of warm water with two tablespoons of salt dissolved in it.



A first aid kit

HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOUSE SAFE

Keep the house clean and neat. There is less danger of fire spreading in a clean, orderly house.

Keep your house and household equipment in a state of good repair.

Keep at least one fire extinguisher handy. Make certain adults in the family know how to operate it and that it is in good working order. If it has been used, it must be recharged. Give it to the Housing Association Council.

Keep a first-aid kit on hand. Ask the housing educator or nurse to help you make one for your home. Such things as a few band aids, iodine, sterile gauze and tape may be all that is needed for minor injuries.

NOTES