



Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are *preventable*.



These fires above started as a result of improperly discarded smoking materials right here in Chesterfield County

Every year in the U.S., almost 1,000 smokers and non-smokers are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. Fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials are *preventable*. You *can* make a difference! If you smoke or live with someone who smokes, learn the facts. A lit cigarette accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed, or hot cigarette ashes or matches tossed away before they are completely out, can cause a large fire in seconds. In 2013, the average dollar loss for structure fires in Chesterfield County caused by cigarettes was \$35,500 per fire.

Putting out a cigarette the right way only takes seconds, too. It is up to you to make sure your cigarette is put out, all the way, every time.

One-in-four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire. More than one third were children of the smokers and twenty-five percent were neighbors or friends of the smokers.

Take these steps to keep your family safe

- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays or a metal container filled with sand.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are completely out.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- Never extinguish cigarettes in a flower pot.
- Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash.

For more information, contact Chesterfield Fire & Life Safety (804) 748-1426, www.chesterfield.gov/fire