

Some preventive precautions and safety procedures for the protection from fire risks:

- 1) Awareness of fire risks of all types and causes and how to deal with it and the importance of protection from it.
- 2) Placing match sticks or lighters in safe places out of the reach of children.
- 3) Optimal and proper use of electrical distributors and electrical connections and avoiding high electric voltage and electrical overloads.
- 4) Proper maintenance and constant checks of electrical appliances to ensure its serviceability.
- 5) Disconnecting electrical appliances when not in use.
- 6) Equipping homes with smoke detectors and fire alarm devices (if practicable), which are regularly maintained and promptly replaced if necessary.
- 7) Proper arrangement and storage of materials in safe storage places.
- 8) Avoiding leaving cooking oils in the kitchen unattended.
- 9) Maintaining appropriate fire extinguishers in households and storage places, in highly visible places and out of the reach of children, while ensuring its periodic maintenance and awareness of its various types and the types of fires against which they are to be used and how to use them to extinguish fires.
- 10) Conducting periodic maintenance of stoves and ovens and ensuring its serviceability, including that of the rubber hoses of the gas cylinders feeding into the stoves or ovens and further ensuring that it is free of leaks.




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**Kuwait Fire Protection
Association**

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Household Fires



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Household Fires

Fires have many types and causes.

Fires may involve households and factories, as well as commercial shops, restaurants and other places and establishments, where fires may erupt for various reasons, whether direct or indirect, including electrical friction, gas leaks, spillage or improper storage of flammable substances, throwing cigarette butts or match sticks while still alight. Lack of awareness and negligence are arguably among the most important of the indirect causes of fires, which we will address below:

Definition of fire:

A fire is defined as a quick chemical reaction involving a flammable substance in the presence of oxygen, resulting in heat and flame
Fuel + Oxygen + Heat + chain chemical reaction = Basic causative elements of fire.



Residential Household Fires

The growing globalization and modernization under which we live today have generated major risks, particularly the risk of fires which endanger the safety and security of people not to mention its grievous results and consequences impacting lives and property.

In fact, household fires and resulting fatalities, injuries, moral and material losses are now a focal point of concern and the subject of many research papers and in depth study and investigation of its causes. These studies indicate that fires have many causes of which the most important are arguably the lack of awareness among most people and failure to take protective measures and follow safety procedures.



Most probable fire-prone sites in households

Households contain many sites, tools and equipment which constitute fire risks, such as electric power, electrical appliances, gas cylinders, gas stoves, gas ovens and cooking oils, which are now regarded as an integral part of the life of modern man and have even become indispensable and inextricably connected to it. However, besides being essential tools and implements of household life, they could also be primary or secondary causes of the eruption of household fires if we take into account the rampant ignorance, widespread lack of awareness and failure to take protective measures and follow safety procedures not to mention unattended child tampering which plays a major part in the occurrence of household accidents and fires.

The following are the most probable household sites where fires are likely to erupt:

- 1) Kitchens
- 2) Storerooms
- 3) Places where electrical appliances are kept
- 4) Places containing flammable or combustible substances.

Some household risks that may cause the eruption of fire:

- 1) **Electrical Risks:** Overloading electrical distributors as a result of connecting multiple power plugs and electrical connections to a single distributor, resulting in electrically overloading a distributor. Other causes include poor quality of wiring, electrical appliances and electrical connections
- 2) **Lack of awareness:** Throwing match sticks and cigarette butts either upon flammable objects or in waste baskets, leaving lit candles within reach of children and placing electric heaters close to flammable substances, such as furniture, curtains and fabric.
- 3) **Improper storage:** Improper storage of flammable or combustible substances or leaving such substances dangerously close to a heat source.
- 4) **Leaving cooking oils on gas stoves unattended.**

