

FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION

- Develop a fire escape plan that includes more than one way to exit your home or apartment in case of fire or other emergency. Practice using these exits during non-emergencies.
- Each family member should know how to test the bedroom door for heat before opening it, as well as have a planned emergency exit route and a meeting point after exiting the residence.
- Contact your local fire department and rescue squad and let them know that you, or a member of your family, have vision problems. Ask for suggestions to help you plan a safe escape in case of a fire or other emergency.
- Don't use appliances with frayed or broken electrical cords.
- Don't smoke in bed or near a flammable source, such as a gas stove or oxygen tank.
- Don't use space heaters near walls, furniture, or curtains. Give space heaters the "space" they need to heat your home safely and efficiently.

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This and other vision loss information is also available online at VisionAWARE.org, a "Self-Help for Vision Loss" website. VisionAWARE is a program of AWARE.

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FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION *(cont.)*

- Have your heating systems professionally checked and cleaned once a year.
- Use precautions and follow the manufacturer's instructions when positioning halogen lights or lamps close to your body, curtains, or furniture.
- Halogen bulbs produce intense heat and can cause fire, severe burns, and personal injury if used incorrectly. Halogen fixtures should always be kept away from flammable curtains and fabrics.

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