



Everyone should set up a program of year-round fire prevention in their home. Start by cleaning

out the old papers, old clothing and other combustible trash from your cellar, attic and closets.

lessness or neglect can be just as tragic and as destructive as one set by a "Nero".

There are hundreds of different causes of fire. Here is a part of fire's yearly batting average:

CAUSE	FIRES	LOSS
Smoking and matches	95,000	\$55,500,000
Misuses of electricity and appliances	75,000	82,500,000
Defective heating equipment	54,000	60,000,000
Careless handling and use of inflammable liquids	42,000	50,000,000
Defective or overheated chimneys and flues	30,000	23,000,000
Children playing with matches	22,000	8,000,000
Sparks on roofs	21,000	15,000,000

Dwellings bear the brunt of the annual death rate and property loss due to fire. Last year there were 282,000 dwellings destroyed by fire compared with 33,000 stores and shops, 30,000 manufacturing plants, 23,000 hotels and rooming houses, 15,000 restaurants and taverns, 4,000 theaters and amusement halls, 3,000 churches, 3,000 schools and colleges and 1,400 hospitals and institutions.

The fact that most fires are in the home, and the fact that most of them are the result of carelessness or neglect, should be of immediate and constant concern to everyone. The main causes can be easily eliminated. Just take off four minutes to ask yourself these questions about your home: Are all electrical appliances clean and in good working order? Are there plenty of ash trays, and are there matches except safety matches

in the house? Do any appliances or lamps have frayed wires? Has the furnace been cleaned and inspected since the last heating season? Do kitchen ranges and oil stoves work well? Is there a metal container for furnace or stove ashes? Is there a screen for the fireplace? Are the chimneys clean? Is the house protected by asphalt shingles or other fire resistant roofing? Is there any combustible rubbish hidden away in the basement, the attic or closets? Are there explosive cleaning fluids in the house?

The National Fire Protection Association reports that there is an "epidemic" of fires in rural areas. Since many of us live in a rural area and a long way from local fire departments, we should be doubly careful about fire hazards in our homes and other buildings. Improper electrical wiring is the cause of a large number of rural fires. This is due to the fact that in many instances unqualified persons have been employed to install house and barn wires and electrical equipment. The careless use of matches, however, is still the number one hazard in rural fires.

The information that has been given will dent the minds of very few people. Most of us are just too confident that fire is going to hit the other fellow—never us. Thousands of other people have been just as confident, but statistics and tombstones prove they were wrong.

We have the power, individually and collectively as part of the company and community team, to prevent the majority of all fires. We have the power, individually and collectively, to make our plant and community firesafe.

We have an obligation to ourselves, our families, our company, our community and our country to be a member of the fire defense team.