

## Fire Safety: Do's and Don'ts to Protect Lives and Property

**Fires can spread rapidly and cause serious harm, but simple precautions can protect lives and property.**

### Before a Fire (Preparation):

#### Do:

- Install and regularly test smoke detectors in homes, offices, and hostels.
- Keep fire extinguishers accessible and ensure people know how to use them.
- Maintain electrical wiring and avoid overloading power outlets.
- Store flammable materials safely away from heat sources.
- Identify emergency exits and keep pathways clear at all times.
- Conduct regular fire drills in workplaces, institutions, and residential areas.
- Keep emergency numbers readily available.

#### Don't:

- **Don't leave cooking appliances unattended.**
- **Don't use damaged electrical cords or faulty equipment.**
- **Don't block emergency exits or staircases.**
- **Don't store combustible items near stoves, heaters, or electrical panels.**

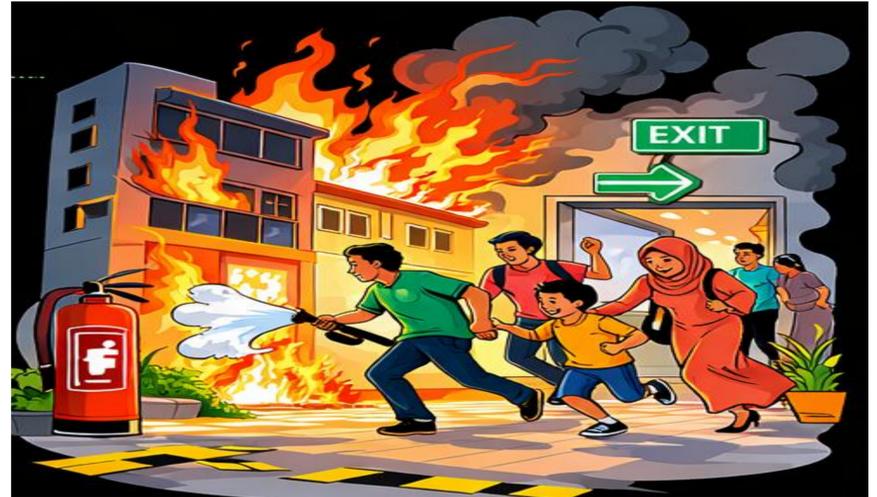
### After a Fire (Recovery):

#### Do:

- Ensure everyone is accounted for at the assembly point.
- Seek medical attention for burns or smoke inhalation.
- Inform authorities and report damages immediately.
- Follow instructions from fire and emergency officials.
- Check the building only after authorities declare it safe to enter.

#### Don't:

- **Don't re-enter the building until official clearance is given.**
- **Don't touch damaged electrical equipment.**
- **Don't ignore signs of structural damage or gas leaks.**



### During a Fire (Action):

#### Do:

- Stay calm and raise the alarm immediately.
- Evacuate through the nearest safe exit.
- If there is smoke, crawl low to the ground to avoid inhaling smoke.
- Use fire extinguishers only if the fire is small and manageable.
- Help children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities evacuate safely.
- Call the fire emergency services immediately.

#### Don't:

- **Don't use elevators during a fire.**
- **Don't open a door if it feels hot.**
- **Don't attempt to fight a large fire yourself.**
- **Don't return inside a burning building for belongings.**