

FIRE FACT

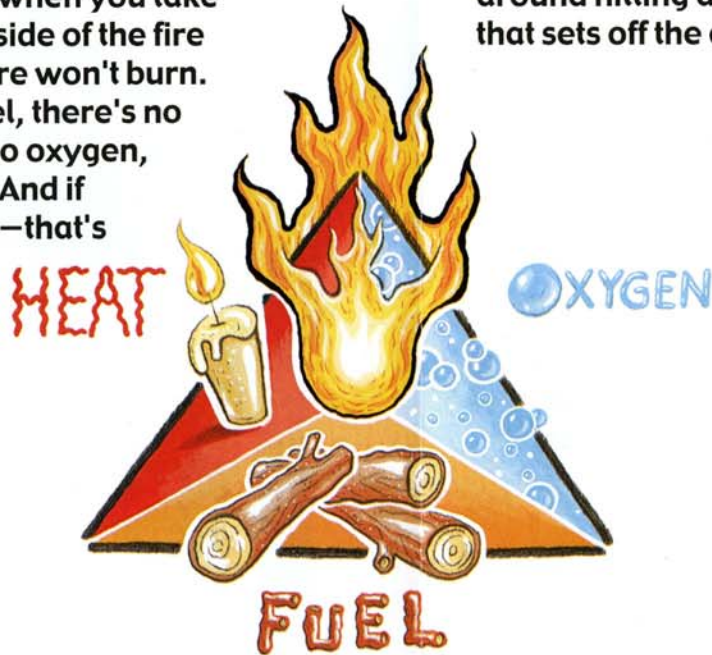
Fires don't start just from a flame or a spark. An electric stove or heater can be enough to get a blaze burning.

Fire Basics

Everyone knows that fire is scary, but how does a fire get started in the first place? Before there's a blaze you need fuel, or things that can burn, like paper, books, furniture, or clothes. Once that fuel combines with enough heat (candle, spark, heater, or other source) and oxygen from the air, you've got the elements that make a fire. Now all you need is a chemical reaction and you get combustion. Got it? Fuel plus heat plus oxygen plus a chemical reaction equals fire.

Three Sides of Fire

What happens when you take away any one side of the fire triangle? The fire won't burn. If there's no fuel, there's no fire. If there's no oxygen, there's no fire. And if there's no heat—that's right, there's no fire!



Sensing Fire

How a Smoke Alarm Works

The particles of smoke cause light beams inside the alarm to reflect all around hitting a light sensitive pickup that sets off the alarm.

Smoke Stinks

Smoke actually kills more people than fire. Smoke is full of bad stuff, like small pieces of fuel that didn't get burned up and chemicals like carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. Smoke is so bad for you that a single breath can get you disoriented or confused, so you might not be able to escape.

Smoke is hot air, full of poisons, and hot air rises. The air near the floor is cooler and cleaner. That's why if you come upon smoke during your escape, use your second way out. If you have to escape through smoke, get on your hands and knees and crawl with your head one to two feet above the floor.

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Firefighters use water to put out fires because water lowers the heat that the fire needs to keep burning.