

## WHAT IS THE DANGER?

- Smoking is the leading cause of fires. One out of four fatal victims of smoking-material fires is not the smoker whose cigarette started the fire.
- Improperly discarded cigarette ashes or butts can start fires, especially when they fall on combustibles like pine needles, dried leaves, peat moss, potted plants, or other combustible materials.
- Chemicals are added to cigarettes to make sure the cigarette doesn't go out unintentionally while still being smoked. This also means that a cigarette will stay hot and could start a fire long after it has been butted out.



## HOW CAN I STAY SAFE?

- Treat the small fire at the tip of a lit cigarette with appropriate respect.
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy, intoxicated or medicated.
- Never smoke in a home where medical oxygen is used.
- Dispose of cigarette butts in a designated container that is made out of glass, ceramic or metal with a lid and water or sand at the bottom.
- Always use a deep, heavy ashtray that will not tip over.
- Put smoking materials in water or sand to make sure they are safely out.
- Never dispose of your cigarette in a planter or soil with peat moss added to it. Peat moss will smolder for up to two hours before bursting into flames.

