

American Red Cross issues steps to prevent home fires

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The biggest disaster threat to American families isn't floods, hurricanes or tornadoes; it's fire. The American Red Cross responds to a disaster every eight minutes and nearly all of these are home fires.

The American Red Cross responded to more than 400 home fires in Colorado last year. Fire is everyone's fight, and the Red Cross urges people to know what steps they can take to help prevent fires.

"Home fires are a common and deadly threat because they happen so quickly," said Anthony Cisneros, board chairman for the American Red Cross of Northern Colorado. "We urge everyone to become aware of what they should do to prevent a fire in their home." Although home fires happen any time of the year, the Red Cross often sees an increased frequency in home fires in Colorado during cold weather, when people are using space heaters and spending more time indoors.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, there are almost 365,000 residential fires reported in the U.S. every year. These fires cause more than \$6 billion in property loss. While the frequency of fire deaths has steadily decreased over the past 10 years due to increased awareness and safety measures, more than 2,400 Americans still die every year in home fires.

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