

# Cannabis Fire Safety

## Responsibility Grows Here

### Impairment Includes Cannabis



Cooking while under the influence of alcohol, prescription drugs or cannabis can result in a fire.

**Don't put yourself or your family at risk.**

- Always remain alert when cooking.
- Stand by your pan.
- Have a cover ready to **put a lid on a stovetop fire**.
- Keep a close eye on anyone who is cooking while impaired.

### Smoking is Smoking

Smoking is one of the **leading causes of residential fire deaths in Massachusetts.**



- Encourage smokers to **smoke outside**.
- **Never smoke in bed.**
- Whether it is tobacco or cannabis, cigarettes and joints need to be properly extinguished in **large, deep ashtrays**, or in **cans of sand outside**.
- Landlords can prohibit all smoking in their buildings.

### Smoke Alarms Save Lives!



Only working smoke alarms give you the early warning you need to safely escape a fire.

- **Have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms** on every level of your home.
- **Test alarms every month.**
- Make sure smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.

- Have an **escape plan with 2 ways out** of every room and a meeting place outside.
- **Practice a home fire escape plan** so everyone in your home knows what to do when the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms sound.
- Keep all pathways to exits clear of obstacles and trip hazards.

### Growing Cannabis at Home, Safely



- It is legal to grow 6 plants per adult (over 21 years of age) for a maximum of 12 plants per home.
- Growing cannabis may involve high-powered lamps, constant irrigation, fertilizer, temperature control and ventilation.
- If you rent, be sure to check with the owner before making any modifications to the house or its systems. Remember that violating the fire code is usually a violation of a rental agreement. Also, landlords can prohibit all activities related to marijuana.

For more information, contact your local fire department.



Department of Fire Services

[www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)

## Too Many Wires Can Cause Fires

If you grow cannabis at home, you may use grow lamps or dehumidifiers.

- Ensure that all electrical appliances are **certified by an accredited testing agency** like Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Operate all electrical appliances according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Plug all heat-generating appliances directly into outlets. Do not use extension cords or power strips.
- **Extension cords should not be linked together.** Instead, use an extension cord that is long enough to do the job.
- Avoid running cords under rugs, which can damage the cord and cause a fire.
- **Avoid overloading a circuit with octopus outlets** and use extension cords only as a temporary connection. If permanent wiring, circuits or outlets are needed, have them installed by a licensed electrician.
- Do not bypass electrical system safety mechanisms like circuit breakers and fuses.



## Building Modifications Require Building Permits

Before modifying a building for ventilation or insulation, you must get a permit from the building department (and permission from the landlord if you rent). Modifications to insulation or ventilation can affect how fire will spread, posing a danger to both occupants and responding firefighters.



This document provides general guidance. Consult an attorney for legal advice. For questions about the State Fire Code, check with your local fire department.

## Don't Put Yourself or Your Family at Risk of Fire.

### Hazardous Extraction of Cannabis Oil Can Cause Explosions and Fires

- Extracting cannabis or cbd oil with flammable materials (such as propane, butane, or alcohol) is extremely dangerous and potentially explosive. It can result in the uncontrolled release of flammable vapors. Vapors can easily find ignition sources and cause explosions and fires that result in serious injuries and property damage.
- Extraction in basements is particularly dangerous because flammable vapors can accumulate in high concentrations leading to more powerful explosions.
- **Extracting cannabis or cbd oil with flammable materials such as butane in homes is unsafe and against the law.**
- It is illegal to store more than 2 lbs. of butane inside your home. Two pounds is the equivalent of two small gas cylinders for camping.
- Propane may not be stored inside a home.
- Having more than 42 lbs. of propane or butane requires a permit, and more than 2,000 lbs. requires a license from the city or town.



#### In order to conduct extraction safely using flammable materials, you must:

- Obtain a permit to conduct extraction using hazardous or flammable materials from the fire department.
- Have a permit from the fire department to store flammable gas or liquid.
- Depending on the quantity of flammable material, you might need a license from the city or town.