



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW REPORT SHOWS FIRES BURN THROUGH HOMES AT INCREASED, TREACHEROUS SPEED AND CLOSING DOORS COULD BE LIFE SAVER

PHILADELPHIA (October 10, 2017) – With residential fires spreading through structures faster than ever, a new study released today by the nation’s leading fire researchers points to an important protective action that could save lives in the event of a home fire.

According to the analysis by the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute, “**CLOSED DOORS COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE: SLOWING THE SPREAD OF SMOKE, HEAT AND FLAMES IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE**,” the average person has three minutes or less to escape a home fire. That time has decreased over the last 40 years when victims had an average of 17 minutes to escape a burning home after the activation of a smoke alarm.

The increased rate of burn in the home is due in large part to how modern homes are built and furnished. Many homes employ an open floor plan and are built and furnished with synthetic materials that are prone to burn much quicker.

The authors of the study strongly recommend that all people have working smoke detectors and multiple escape routes from their home. If they are not able to get out of the house safely, a closed door can provide occupants a critical barrier against heat and smoke, giving them precious time to escape or be rescued, and helping to protect property.

The study coincides with UL FSRI’s “**Close Before You Doze**” public safety campaign, promoting a simple behavior unknown to millions of Americans – closing all the room doors in your house at bedtime.

“As home fires get even faster and harder to control, a simple nighttime step that most people may not think about could make all the difference in surviving,” said Steve Kerber, UL Director of Firefighter Safety Research. “If you can, get out of the house in a fire. But if it’s moving too fast and you can’t escape, a closed door can offer a life-saving barrier between you and the fire. The data is clear, closing your doors at night could keep you alive.”

Among the key findings in the FSRI analysis:

- Residential fires generate indoor temperatures as high as high as 2000 degrees. Behind closed doors it can be as low as 100.
- A closed door can provide protection against potentially lethal levels of carbon monoxide (CO). CO levels in a room with an open door can be as high at 10,000 parts per million (ppm), compared with approximately 100 ppm in a room behind a closed door.
- A door of almost any construction affords an effective barrier against the effects of a fire. Even a hollow-core door can withstand a fire for up to five minutes, while a solid wood door can last as long as 10 minutes.

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CL**ISE**
BEFORE YOU DOZE

The logo for the "Close Before You Doze" campaign features the word "CLOSE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "I" is replaced by a red door handle graphic. Below "CLOSE" is the phrase "BEFORE YOU DOZE" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.