



Provided courtesy of the International Code Council's Fire Service Membership Council

Close Before You Doze

Have you heard about the *Close Before You Doze* campaign by Underwriters Laboratories (UL)?

Guided by a global advisory board comprised of fire service personnel, the [UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute](#) (FSRI) advances fire research knowledge and develops cutting edge, practical fire service education aimed at helping firefighters stay safe while more effectively protecting people and property. They have conducted full-scale experiments, field-testing, and predictive modeling to replicate actual fires faced by firefighters on the fire ground. Through this research they have learned that simply closing doors in a home before dozing off to sleep can:

- Reduce a fire's growth – limits available oxygen to feed a fire
- Reduce heated air temperatures – a 1000° room can lower to 100°
- Improve air quality – a room's carbon monoxide level can be reduced 90%

Modern home construction design now includes greater open living areas and synthetic furniture materials which allows for 7 times quicker fire spread, reducing a family's escape time from previous 17 minutes to only 3 minutes today. And with 50% of home fire deaths occurring between 11pm – 7am, closing doors before heading to bed can give crucial time needed for safe evacuation.

From analyzing the science for first responders to safety practices and education for the public, the *Close Before You Doze* campaign is an excellent tool for fire officials and public educators to promote this simple but effective message to increase fire safety. Free resource materials, sharable graphics and information, testing videos and statistical documents can all be found on the [Close Your Door](#) website to help you spread the message.

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