

Fire Safety Checklist

Fires are dangerous! It is important that you do all you can to prevent them in your home and prepare all members of your household to be safe in the event of a fire. Please use the checklist below to make your home safe. If an item cannot be checked off, make every effort to correct it within a timely manner so you and your family will be prepared!

Develop and practice a fire escape plan with the entire family.

Elements of an effective escape plan:

- Working smoke alarms in every bedroom and on every level of the home
- Two ways out of every room in the home (1st is usually a door, 2nd is usually a window)
- Unobstructed and easy-to-use exits
- A central meeting place outside the home that is known by all household members
- All members of the household should decide what tasks they are responsible for during an escape (for example, assisting the elderly, young children, etc.)
- Practice! Practice! Practice!** The plan should be practiced with *all* members of the household at least *twice a year*. Appoint a “fire chief” (typically father, mother, adult) and hold ‘realistic’ fire drills, remembering to crawl low under smoke. When practicing, pretend some exits are blocked.

Install smoke alarms in all bedrooms and on every level of the home.

- Test smoke alarms every month. Allow children to assist.
- Replace batteries twice a year (“change you clock, change your batteries” = daylight savings time).
- Follow manufacturers’ directions on how to mount/install smoke alarms. Alarms should be mounted high on walls (4 – 12” from ceiling), ceilings (positioned 4 inches away from nearest wall), or vaulted ceilings (mounted at highest point of ceiling).
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years for maximum protection.

Everyone should learn how to STOP, DROP (cover face), and ROLL if clothes catch on fire.

- Remember to roll continuously until the fire is out.

Keep all lighters, matches, chemicals, etc. in a locked or high cabinet.

- Teach children not to play with lighters, matches, and hazardous chemicals.
- If children find matches or lighters, they should immediately tell an adult.

Teach children to not play in the kitchen or other dangerous areas in the home.

- Teach them to stay away from hot things on the stove or outside grill.
- Turn pot handles inward, toward the back of the stovetop.

Use outlet safety.

- Do not overload outlets or plug more than one appliance or extension cord into each outlet.
- If there are very young children in the home, use childproof plugs in all unused outlets.
- Replace all frayed, cracked, or broken electrical cords *immediately*.

Keep portable heaters at least *three feet* away from anything that can burn.

- Family members, especially children, should not touch or play near heaters or place anything on them.

Place fire extinguishers near an exit on every level of your home.

- Fire extinguishers should be placed in the kitchen, basement, and garage.
- Keep fire extinguishers out of the reach of children.

List local emergency telephone numbers near each phone in the home.

- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 *only* in an emergency and to stay on the phone with the operator until told to hang up.
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