

Home Fire Safety

Fire Safety Checklist

- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher in the kitchen and understand its operating principles. Inspect fire extinguisher regularly and replace as needed.
- Develop a plan for escaping from your home in case of a fire.
- Ensure that everyone in your home understands to stay low and crawl when smoke is present.
- If a fire breaks out, "**get out and stay out.**" Call 911 from a neighbor's home.
- If your clothes catch fire, "**stop, drop, and roll**" to extinguish the flames.
- Never re-enter a burning home. Wait for the local fire department to give the "**all clear**" to re-enter your home after a fire.

Outside Your Home

- Store flammable liquids such as gasoline in a tight, properly labeled, fire safe container away from any heat source and small children.
- Turn off outdoor power equipment such as lawn mowers and allow them to cool before storage or adding gasoline.
- Keep weeds and underbrush clear from the structure of your home.
- Clear pine needles and leaves from the roof, eaves, and gutters.
- Trim all tree limbs within 10 feet of a structure.
- Keep grills at least five feet away from any structure.

Inside Your Home

- Wear short or snug fitting clothes while cooking.
- Do not leave the food preparation area while cooking.
- Use a low flame on gas stoves to protect against grease fires.
- Always turn pot handles and utensils to the middle of the stove to prevent children from grabbing them.
- Keep your cooking area clean.
- Do not store pot holders, towels, or napkins near the cooking area.
- Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent scald burns.

- Store matches, and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never use a generator or gas/propane heater indoors.
- Avoid using the stove or grill for heating.
- Don't run a vehicle for warmth or power in an enclosed area.

If You Smoke

- Use large heavy ashtrays that won't tip over.
- Extinguish all smoking materials completely.
- Empty used ashtrays only after the contents have cooled.
- Do not smoke on or around furniture or in the bedroom.
- Store matches, and lighters out of the reach of children.

Electrical

- Only purchase and use UL-approved or tested appliances.
- Plug only one appliance into an outlet or extension cord.
- Unplug a cord from the plug and do not pull from the cord.
- Use only safety-tested extension cords or surge protection devices.
- Provide appliances with adequate ventilation.
- Keep all appliances away from water.
- Replace broken plugs and frayed cords.
- Call a licensed electrician if you experience any of the following in your home; frequently blown fuses, tripped circuit breakers, flickering lights.
- Do not run extension cords under carpet or like material.
- Do not run extension cords over door frames.
- Do not plug more than one extension cord in a line.
- Keep clothes dryer vents clean and do not operate the dryer while it is unattended.

Heating Systems

- Do not operate any home heating device less than 3 feet away from drapes, clothing, linens, furniture, etc.
- Check and replace filters according to the manufacturer recommendations.

- Use electrical heating appliances designed for your home's electricity capability.
- Do not plug more than one heater into the same circuit.

Woodstoves and Fireplaces

- Have chimneys and fireplaces cleaned once a year.
- Your chimney should have a cap on the top outside.
- Keep the damper open when in use.
- Use a glass cover or screen to cover the opening of the fireplace when in use.
- Before disposing of ashes make sure they are cooled for several hours even if you are dumping them outside. Ashes should be contained in a metal container with a lid.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Install and maintain at least one smoke and carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home.
- At minimum, there should be one smoke detector outside each sleeping area; preferably one in each sleeping area.
- Replace the batteries in all detectors when you change your clocks in the fall.
- Keep detectors clean and away from clutter.
- Test detectors monthly.

Exit Drills for Your Home

- Design an escape plan for your family.
- Have two ways out of every room.
- Establish a place outside where everyone can meet.
- Practice your fire drill every 6 months (at minimum).