

Fire Safety Checklist

for Parents and Guardians

Because fires are dangerous, it is important that you do all you can to prevent them in your home as well as prepare all members of your household on how to be safe in the event of one. Please use the checklist below to make your home environment safe. If an item cannot be checked off, then do all you can to correct it within a timely manner so you and your family will be prepared!

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- Develop and practice a fire escape plan with the entire family.**
Elements of an effective escape plan:
 - Working smoke detectors
 - 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
 - Members of the household should know what tasks they are responsible for during an escape
 - 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.
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- Install smoke detectors on every level of the home and outside all sleeping areas.**
 - Test detectors every month. Let children help you test them monthly.
 - Replace batteries twice a year (“change you clock, change your batteries”).
 - Detectors 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 detectors every 10 years.
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- Teach children to STOP, DROP (cover face), and ROLL when clothes catch on fire.**
 - Remember to roll continuously until fire is out.
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- 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 any, they should immediately tell an adult.
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- 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 toward the back of the stovetop.
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- Use outlets 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.
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- Replace all frayed, cracked, or broken electrical cords.**
 - Unplug large and small appliances when not in use.
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- Keep portable heaters at least *three feet* away from anything that can burn.**
 - Let children know that they shouldn’t touch or play near them or place anything on them.
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- Place fire extinguishers on every level of your home.**
 - Especially in the kitchen, basement, and garage.
 - Keep out of children’s reach.
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- List 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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