



# Home Fire Safety Inspection Checklist

Please take the time to complete the following inspection of your home. As you evaluate each item, please check each box in the space provided. Only mark the box, if the item is *already* safe—not if you intend to make the needed adjustments soon! When you are finished, review the empty boxes—this will identify what hazards are present for you to take corrective action.

## Smoke Detection

- You have installed smoke alarms on every level of your home
- You have replaced the batteries in your smoke alarms within the last year using manufacturer recommended batteries
- You have tested your smoke alarms in the last month
- None of your smoke alarms are over 10 years old

## All Bedrooms and Bathrooms

- You and your children can open all doors and windows from the inside for escape
- There are smoke alarms by or in every bedroom
- You have a list of important and emergency phone numbers next to each phone or programmed in each phone
- You have a working flashlight in each bedroom
- Portable heaters are at least 3 feet away from combustibles (e.g. curtains, furniture and walls)
- You use bulbs at or below maximum wattage recommended by the manufacturer in your lighting fixtures
- You are careful not to overload electrical outlets
- Extension cords are used sparingly
- All cords of appliances and lighting fixtures are in good condition (not frayed or damaged)
- Matches, lighters and prescription medicines are stored out of children's reach
- All medicines and cosmetics are kept out of the sight and reach of children
- Old medicine is dumped in the toilet and flushed rather than being placed in a trash can
- Cleaning products are kept in the original containers—out of the reach of children
- Candles are kept away from combustibles and only used when you are present

- o All family members know how to get out of each room (at least two ways out)
- o All family members know the family escape plan and a designated meeting area
- o All family members know how to crawl low under smoke

## **Living Area**

- o You are careful not to overload electrical outlets
- o If there is a smoker at your residence, they use large deep ashtrays
- o After a party, furniture is checked for smoldering cigarette/cigar ashes
- o The fireplace has a screen
- o You use a metal container with a lid to remove ashes
- o You had your chimney cleaned within the last year
- o Each smoke alarm has been tested and they function properly
- o The smoke alarm has been vacuumed recently
- o If you have cabinets and storage drawers, safety latches have been installed to keep small children away from dangerous items or confined spaces
- o Appliance and lighting cords are in good condition
- o There are no holes in walls, ceilings or ceiling tiles that would allow for rapid fire spread

## **Kitchen**

- o Appliance cords are kept rolled up on the counter out of the reach of small children
- o Electrical outlets are not overloaded
- o Appliances are kept away from water
- o The cords are in good condition
- o Appliances are unplugged when not in use
- o The stovetop is clean of grease and oil
- o Combustibles are kept away from the stove
- o You are careful not to store "goodies" above the stove
- o All family members know to wear tight sleeves when cooking
- o All family members know to NEVER walk away from food cooking on the stove
- o All cleaning products and other chemicals are stored out of the reach of young children (not underneath the sink)

- o All family members know to cool a burn with cool water (not ice or other remedies)

### **Storage/Work Areas**

- o The water heater is set below 125 degrees F
- o The furnace or heating unit has been checked and cleaned once this year
- o The area around the furnace is clean and open
- o The fuse box has the correct size fuse for each circuit
- o The dryer lint trap is cleaned after each use
- o Cleaning agents are stored in their original containers out of the reach of children

### **Garage**

- o Oily rags and mops with paint, oil, varnish and polish are kept in a covered metal can and disposed of after they are completely dried out
- o Combustible liquids are kept in tight containers away from heat sources
- o All gasoline is stored in approved safety cans
- o Work areas are kept in order and clear of obstructions
- o All chemicals are kept in their original containers
- o If portable heaters are used, they are kept in well-ventilated spaces away from combustibles
- o The correct fuel is being used in all appliances or machinery
- o Lawn mowers and other machinery are started and refilled outdoors in ventilated areas
- o There are no holes in walls or ceilings that would allow for rapid fire spread

### **Exterior of the Home**

- o The address numbers for your home are posted facing the street in a color that contrasts the background of your home and are visible from the street
- o If your home has wood shingles, they have been treated with a fire retardant
- o All antennas are properly grounded
- o Electrical connections are snug
- o Gas barbecues are stored away from the house
- o Propane or butane cylinders are stored outside of the home or garage areas
- o Weeds and brush are cleared at least 10 feet away from the home