

# Home Safety Checklist

## SMOKE ALARMS

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside sleeping areas and on every level of your home - don't forget the garage, sheds and out buildings
- Test smoke alarms monthly
- Replace smoke alarm batteries yearly -  
New alarms have 10 year batteries that do not need yearly maintenance

Heat and smoke rise, which is why we place smoke alarms high on the wall or ceiling. Carbon monoxide, however, mixes with the air. For this reason, it is preferable to install CO alarms at knee level – the approximate height of a sleeping person's nose and mouth.

## CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside sleeping areas and on every level of your home - don't forget the garage, sheds and out buildings
- Test carbon monoxide alarms monthly
- Replace alarm batteries yearly

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) extinguisher for each level of your home, don't forget kitchen, storage areas, out buildings, shed & garage
- Teach your family how to use a fire extinguisher  
Use PASS - PULL the pin, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep
- Inspect extinguishers yearly

## FIRE DRILLS

- Develop a home escape plan that includes
  - Crawling low under smoke
  - Two exits out of every room
  - Plan for pets
  - A meeting place outside & safe distance from fire - tree, mailbox, etc
- Practice escape plan with every member of the family  
Use PASS - PULL the pin, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep
- Teach family members how to:
  - Dial 9-1-1
  - STOP - Drop - Roll if clothes catch fire - Smother with a blanket or coat

## EXTERIOR

- Make house numbers reflective & visible from street
- Place house numbers on curb, fence & house
- Trim trees away from electrical wires
- Trim trees away from chimney & remove all pine needles and leaves from roof, eaves & rain gutters

## HEATING EQUIPMENT & FIREPLACE

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from all combustibles
- Replace furnace filters once a year
- Clean lint from behind clothes dryer
- Install a spark screen in front of fireplace
- Have chimney inspected and cleaned yearly
- Install a spark arrester on chimney
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container
- Keep newspapers, other combustibles and clutter away from water heater.

## ELECTRICAL

- Avoid overloading circuits
- Inspect electrical cords and appliance cords for damage
- Do not tack cords to the wall or run them under rugs
- Maintain airspace around electrical equipment, such as televisions, monitors, stereos etc
- Have an electrician install additional outlets to avoid extension cords
- If extension cords must be used, use only the kind with a built in circuit breaker

## COOKING

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Cuff sleeves and turn pot holders inward when cooking to avoid burn injuries
- Never store combustibles in ovens, on top of stoves, or on toasters

## SMOKING MATERIALS & CANDLES

- Never leave cigarettes, candles, cigars or other lit objects unattended
- Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature
- Empty ashtrays into noncombustible containers only
- Never smoke in bed
- Place candles in noncombustible sturdy holders
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children