



FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY HOME SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

We need to do a little homework for fire prevention and safety in our homes. Please take about 20 minutes to walk through your home and look for possible fire hazards. The following is a checklist that can be used to find the most common fire and safety hazards in the home. Parents or Caregivers, ask the kids to help you complete this checklist.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Yes No Are your house numbers visible from the street both Day and Night?
- Yes No Is the area around your home free of weeds and debris?
- Yes No Are appropriate ashtrays or other approved containers used for discarding smoking material?
- Yes No Are household chemicals kept in properly labeled containers and away from children?
- Yes No Is gasoline stored in an approved container in a detached shed away from all ignition sources?
- Yes No Are all matches and lighters stored up high and out of reach and sight of children?

CANDLE SAFETY

- Yes No Are candles extinguished when leaving the room or when going to bed?
- Yes No Are candles kept at least two feet away from any materials that can burn, including curtains, blinds, wallpaper, bulletin boards and clothing?
- Yes No Are candles placed in sturdy non-combustible holders that won't tip over easily and large enough to collect dripping wax?

COOKING SAFETY

- Yes No Is a grown-up staying in the kitchen when cooking on the stove?
- Yes No Are curtains, towels, pot holders, boxes, paper, and other things that can burn kept well away from the stove top and counter near the stove?
- Yes No Is the pan lid nearby to use in case a fire starts in the pan?
- Yes No Are pan handles turned inward so they cannot be bumped?
- Yes No Is there a "Kid-Free" zone of three feet around the stove when grown-ups are cooking?

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Yes No Are extension cords being used properly?
Cords should not be used to replace permanent wiring, covered with rugs or carpets, or across doorways.
- Yes No Are electrical appliances in good repair? Replace all electrical cords that are frayed or worn.
- Yes No Are electrical lights clear of combustible materials?
- Yes No Are UL approved power strips being used in electrical circuits with multiple appliances?

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HEATING SAFETY

- Yes No Are portable space heaters turned off when adults leave the room for a long time or when they go to bed?
- Yes No If portable space heaters are used, are they kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn like people, pets, papers, towels, and furniture?
- Yes No Are combustibles stored at least three feet from furnaces and water heaters?
- Yes No If you have a fireplace does it have a sturdy screen in front of it to catch sparks?
- Yes No Has your fireplace and chimney been inspected and cleaned this year?
- Yes No Has your furnace been checked by a furnace service company this year?
- Yes No Are propane tanks and other fuels stored outside your home?
- Yes No Are clips on heating lamps secured and not hanging over combustible materials when being used?

SMOKE ALARMS AND HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

- Yes No Do you have smoke alarms on every level, including the basement, and outside sleeping area?
- Yes No Are your smoke alarms installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and not placed in dead air spaces?
- Yes No Are your smoke alarms tested monthly?
- Yes No Can everyone hear the sound of the alarm and know what it is?
- Yes No Are your smoke alarms over 10 years old? They should be replaced if they are.
- Yes No Have you changed your smoke alarm batteries twice this year? Changing clocks to and from Daylight Savings time is a good way to remember this.
- Yes No Are all exits kept clear of toys, furniture, and clutter?
- Yes No Do you have two exits, usually a window or another door?
- Yes No Do they work properly and can the person using the second exit open it?
- Yes No Do you have a family fire evacuation plan?
- Yes No Do you have a safe meeting place outside after you exit your home?
- Yes No Have you and your family practiced your family evacuation plan within the last six months?
- Yes No Do you know the emergency number for the fire department? This should be called from a nearby phone, like from your neighbor's phone.

Any areas that are circled NO could be a potential fire or safety hazard and should be corrected as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact the Burgaw Fire Department for more information about fire prevention and safety.

BE SMART, DON'T LET FIRES START