

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Home fires in the United States number over 1,000 per day. How safe is your home from fire?

Matches and Careless Smoking Hazards:

- Do you keep matches away from sources of heat such as stoves or heaters and from children?
- Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them?
- Do you have plenty of large, non-combustible ashtrays in every room?
- Is “No smoking in bed” a rule in your home?

Electrical Hazards:

- Do you allow only qualified electricians to install or extend your wiring?
- Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords?
- Do you have special circuits for heavy duty appliances, such as stoves?
- Do you use only 15 amp fuses for your household light circuits?
- Are ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) installed in bathrooms, garages, outdoors, at kitchen counters and other locations in the home where there are sinks or basins?
- Are Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) installed in your home? These shut off the electricity when a dangerous condition occurs.
- Are all extension cords in the open – not run under rugs, over hooks or through partitions or door openings?

Yard and Garage Hazards:

- Do you keep your yard cleared of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish?
- If any of the surrounding property is vacant, have weeds, dry leaves and rubbish been cleared off?
- If you keep gasoline for use in a power mower or outboard motor, is it stored in a strong, metal safety type can with self-closing caps on the openings?
- If your garage is attached to the house, is it separated by a tight fitting door, which is kept closed?

Housekeeping Hazards:

- Do you keep your basement, closets and attic cleared of old rags, papers, mattresses, broken furniture and other combustible odds and ends?
- After using oily polishing rags or waste, do you destroy them or place them in covered metal cans?
- If you store paint, varnish, etc., do you keep the containers tightly closed?

Home Appliance Hazards:

- Do you always turn off the stove/oven before leaving the kitchen?
- Are pot handles always turned toward the back of the stove? Is the stovetop kept clean of grease, spills and clutter?
- Do you always turn off the dryer before leaving your home?
- Do you always clean the lint tray in your dryer before each use?
- Are space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn (walls, curtains, bedding and furniture)?
- Has the chimney been inspected or cleaned in the past 12 months?
- Has your heating system been inspected or cleaned in the past 12 months?
- Does the fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks?
- Are carbon monoxide alarms located outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home?

Fire Safe:

- Do you have smoke alarms installed on every level, including the basement, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area? Do you test your smoke detectors once a month?
- Does your family have a drawn escape plan of your house, showing all exits?
- Does everyone in the family know at least 2 escape routes from every room?
- Does your family practice your escape plan at least twice a year?
- Do all smoke detectors have working batteries?
- Do you have a meeting place outside of the home for all family members to gather in case of fire?
- Are smoke alarms older than 10 years old? If so, replace them.

For more education information, contact the Brainerd Fire Department at 218-828-2312

Or visit these websites:

- www.nfpa.org/homechecklist
- www.nfpa.org
- www.sparky.org

Did you know...

- ✚ **Heating equipment causes 22% of home fire deaths**
- ✚ **A home structure fire is reported every 79 seconds**
- ✚ **Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with either no smoke alarms or alarms that were not working**

[NFPA Statistics]