

Home Fire Safety Self-Inspection Checklist

Address: _____

This checklist is designed to help you improve the safety of your home & protect your family from fire & common household hazards.

Home fire facts:

- Fires kill more people in the US annually than all natural disasters combined.
- Annually approximately 4000 civilians are killed & more than 28,000 are injured in fires.
 - Eight out of ten fire deaths in the US occur in the home.
 - Every 79 seconds a home burns somewhere in the US.
 - Home fires often happen at night when people are sleeping.
- In only 3 minutes a room can become engulfed in flames before anyone awakens.
 - A fire doubles in size every 30 seconds.
- Those at highest risk of dying in a fire are young children, older adults, and people with disabilities, smokers, people that use alcohol, or take medications that cause drowsiness.
 - Smokers' materials are the #1 cause of fire deaths in the home.

Looking around your home, please check YES or NO for the following statements.

Any NO answer presents a danger, so take steps to fix the situation and make your home a safer place.

| SMOKE ALARMS – Working smoke alarms save lives. | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Do you have smoke alarms near sleeping areas and on every level of the home? | | |
| Do you test your smoke alarms monthly? | | |
| Do you change the batteries twice a year on non-sealed alarms? | | |
| Have you replaced alarms that are older than ten years? | | |
| Does everyone in your home know what the alarm sounds like & know what to do when they hear the sound? | | |

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| Can all occupants HEAR the smoke alarm sounding? | | |
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| Fire Escape Plan – Plan & practice your home fire escape plan. | YES | NO |
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| Do you have a home escape plan with two ways out of every room? | | |
| Do you have a planned meeting place outside? | | |
| Do you regularly practice you escape plan with family? | | |
| Have you made a plan for escape considering the abilities of all people in your home? | | |

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| Heating Equipment – Unplug space heaters when not in use & before bed. | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Are combustibles kept away from heaters or fireplaces? | | |
| Are fireplace ashes kept in a metal container with lid? | | |
| If using a wood fire place, is there a protective screen and hearth area? | | |
| Have you had your chimney inspected by a professional within the last year? | | |
| Have you had your fireplace inspected by a professional within the last year? | | |
| Do all portable heaters have at least 3 feet of clearance from combustibles such as furnishing, curtains, and bedding? | | |
| Are gas and oil burners maintained regularly? | | |
| Do gas & oil hot water heaters and furnaces have 3 feet of clearance from any combustibles? | | |

| Kitchen – Stay in the kitchen when cooking food. | YES | NO |
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| Are cooking surfaces clean and free of debris? | | |
| Do you keep a pan lid nearby when cooking with grease in case of fire? | | |
| Is someone always in the kitchen while food is cooking? | | |

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| Are children and others requiring supervision also monitored while cooking? | | |
| Do make sure snug fitting clothing is worn while cooking? | | |
| Do you unplug small appliances when not in use? | | |
| Appliances are clean and in good condition, i.e. electrical cords not damaged/frayed, burner elements clean/not damaged, switches clean/not damaged. | | |
| Do you turn pot handles in and away from other burners? | | |
| Is there a non-slip rug or mat below the kitchen sink? | | |

| Bathrooms – Keep medications safe and locked up. | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Are medications current and stored in a safe place? | | |
| Do you dispose of out of date / unnecessary medications at a medication drop box or event? | | |
| Are all bath mats skid proof? | | |
| Do you use night-lights to light your bathroom at night? | | |
| Does your water heater heat only to a safe temperature? | | |

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| Are your bathroom floors, shower floors/tubs equipped with non-slip surfaces? | | |
| Do you bring a cell phone into the bathroom with you in case of emergency? | | |
| Do you keep all electric appliances away from sinks, tubs and showers? | | |
| Does your bathtub/shower have sturdy handrails? | | |

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| Does your home have sturdy handrails at all staircases? | | |
| Do night-lights light your way to the bathroom/hallway at night? | | |
| Are telephone, extension cords & cables removed from walkways and stowed safely behind furniture? | | |
| Is there a sturdy step stool available to reach high items? | | |

| Falls & Trips – Prevent falls & trips by eliminating hazards. | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----|
| Are your walkways clear of clutter? | | |
| Is there a phone near your bed? | | |
| Do you wipe up spills immediately after they happen? | | |
| Are all rugs affixed to the floor or skid proof? | | |
| Do you use nightlights to light your way? | | |
| Is there a lamp in arms distance of your bed? | | |
| Are your bathroom floors, shower floors/tubs equipped with non-slip surfaces? | | |
| Are stairs free from clutter and tripping hazards? | | |

| Vehicles–Seat Belts Save Lives! | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Do all passengers always wear seat belts in the car? | | |
| Do children always use appropriate car seats or booster seats? | | |

| General Safety – Work to prevent emergencies from happening! | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Is your home address clearly marked and easy to see from the street? | | |
| Is the garage free of combustibles such as paper, old rags, etc? | | |
| Are flammable liquids stored in approved, labeled containers? | | |
| Do you clean lint from the dryer and vent regularly? | | |
| Are matches/lighters kept out of reach of children? | | |

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| Do you blow out candles whenever you leave a room? | | |
| Are extension cords UL approved? | | |
| Do you use surge protectors? | | |
| Are extension cords are stowed behind furniture and not overloading outlets? | | |
| Do you have a fire extinguisher in the home? | | |
| Do you use gas, oil or wood in your home for any reason? | | |
| Are phones charged on hard surfaces (not beds/pillows). | | |
| Have you considered installing a sprinkler system in your home? | | |
| Can all doors be unlocked from both sides? | | |
| Do you have a list of emergency phone numbers? | | |

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| If you have children in the house, do you lock lighters/matches away and out of reach of them? | | | |
| If you smoke, do you have a rule of no-smoking in bed? | | | |
| If you smoke, do you smoke while driving? | | | |

Wilmington Fire Department
Community Risk Reduction Division
(910) 342-2731

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|---|-----|-----|----|
| Smoking—Most fatal home fires are caused by smoking materials. Never smoke in bed! | N/A | YES | NO |
| Do you smoke outside? | | | |
| Do you use large deep ashtrays and water to extinguish your smokes? | | | |