Be Red Cross Ready

Fire Prevention & Safety Checklist

The most effective way to protect yourself and your home from fire is to identify and remove fire hazards. Sixty-five percent of home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms. During a home fire, working smoke alarms and a fire escape plan that has been practiced regularly can save lives.

- **If a fire occurs in your home, GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL for help.**
- **Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test them every month and replace the batteries at least once a year.**
- **Talk with all household members about a fire escape plan and practice the plan twice a year.**

Prevent home fires



Steps You Can Take Now

- ❑ Keep items that can catch on fire at least three feet away from anything that gets hot, such as space heaters.
- ❑ Never smoke in bed.
- ❑ Talk to children regularly about the dangers of fire, matches and lighters and keep them out of reach.
- ❑ Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room or go to sleep.

Cooking Safely

- ❑ Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- ❑ Stay in the home while simmering, baking, roasting or boiling food. Check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that food is cooking.
- ❑ Keep anything that can catch fire—like pot holders, towels, plastic and clothing—away from the stove.
- ❑ Keep pets off cooking surfaces and countertops to prevent them from knocking things onto the burner.

Caution: Carbon Monoxide Kills

- ❑ Install carbon monoxide alarms in central locations on every level of your home and outside sleeping areas.
- ❑ If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door.
- ❑ Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area.

Practice fire safety at home



Smoke Alarms

- ❑ Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas.
- ❑ Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.
- ❑ Once a month check whether each alarm in the home is working properly by pushing the test button.
- ❑ Replace batteries in smoke alarms at least once a year. Immediately install a new battery if an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low.
- ❑ Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. Never disable smoke or carbon monoxide alarms.
- ❑ Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.

Fire Escape Planning

- ❑ Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home.
- ❑ Make sure everyone knows where to meet outside in case of fire.
- ❑ Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year and at different times of the day. Practice waking up to smoke alarms, low crawling and meeting outside. Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.
- ❑ Teach household members to **STOP, DROP** and **ROLL** if their clothes should catch on fire.

In case of fire ...



Follow Your Escape Plan!

Remember to **GET OUT, STAY OUT** and **CALL 9-1-1** or your local emergency phone number.

- ❑ If closed doors or handles are warm, use your second way out. Never open doors that are warm to the touch.
- ❑ Crawl low under smoke.
- ❑ Go to your outside meeting place and then call for help.
- ❑ If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with doors closed. Place a wet towel under the door and call the fire department or 9-1-1. Open a window and wave a brightly colored cloth or flashlight to signal for help.

Use Caution with Fire Extinguishers

- ❑ Use a portable fire extinguisher ONLY if you have been trained by the fire department and in the following conditions:
  - The fire is confined to a small area, and is not growing.
  - The room is not filled with smoke.
  - Everyone has exited the building.
  - The fire department has been called.
- ❑ Remember the word PASS when using a fire extinguisher.
  - **P**ull the pin and hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you.
  - **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
  - **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
  - **S**weep the nozzle from side to side.

Let Your Family Know You're Safe

If you experience a home fire or any disaster, register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through **RedCross.org** to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don't have Internet access, call **1-866-GET-INFO** to register yourself and your family.

American Red Cross

For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, visit **RedCross.org**.

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