



The Office of Fire Safety and Injury Prevention Education

8501 Veterans Highway Millersville, MD 21108 410-222-8303

www.aacounty.org

Home Fire Safety Checklist

The following information was prepared so you can evaluate potential fire or safety hazards in your home. This can also help ensure you recognize home safety dangers, eliminate safety threats that you identify, and know what to do in case of an emergency. This list does not include every possible fire hazard. These questions are intended to identify some of the most common situations and questions fire professionals are asked. Understanding the questions, and why they should be answered the way they are indicated, can enhance your life safety and reduce some of the potential threats, injuries and deaths associated with fire.

*Circle your responses and discuss any concerns or questions with a fire safety professional.
The answers we would like everyone to choose are in red.*

Smoke Alarms / Home Fire Escape

- Yes No** Does your home have working smoke alarms on each floor and outside each sleeping area?
These are minimum areas you should have them, consider putting one in each bedroom.
- Yes No** Are the batteries working in all your alarms?
It is recommended that you change your batteries twice a year, but not less than once a year. Remember to do this when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.
- Yes No** Are your smoke alarms more than 10 years old?
If they are older than 10 years they should be replaced. Testing shows the maximum life of a smoke alarm is ten years.
- Yes No** Do you test your smoke alarm each month?
Alarms should be tested once a month. Regularly maintain your alarms by vacuuming out cob webs and dust.
- Yes No** Does your family have a home fire escape plan?
Having a good escape plan is the first step in surviving an emergency situation. Your plan should include two ways out of every room someone sleeps in.
- Yes No** Have you practiced you home fire escape plan?
An escape plan has to be practiced. This is especially true of children.
- Yes No** Has your family picked a safe meeting spot to meet outside after you exit your home?
A good safe meeting spot is near the front of the house. Make sure every one has practiced meeting at the spot and knows to stay there until the fire department arrives.

Fact Sheet

Cooking Safety

- Yes No** Does a grown-up always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
Keep a “Kid-Free” zone of three feet around the stove when cooking.
- Yes No** Do you know what to do if a grease fire starts in a pan or on the stove?
The best and easiest way to stop a grease fire in a pan is to slowly slide a lid over the pan and smother the fire. After the pan is covered, turn the burner off. Under no condition carry the pan to another location.
- Yes No** Do you keep the pot handles turned inward when cooking?
One of the easiest ways to prevent burns and scalds is to keep handles inward so they can't be bumped or grabbed by accident.

Heating Safety

- Yes No** If space heaters are used in your home, are they at least three feet from anything else that can burn?
Never place heaters under a desk. Remember to always turn the heater off when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Yes No** Do you plug any electric heaters directly into the wall outlet?
Never use extension cords. If you need a cord to properly locate the heater, use an appliance rated cord.
- Yes No** Does your fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks?
The combination of a screen and noncombustible mat or surface at least 18 inches in front of your fireplace will prevent sparks and embers from potentially starting a fire on the floor.
- Yes No** Has your chimney been inspected and cleaned in the past year?
This practice will help prevent the buildup of creosote, which can lead to chimney fires.
- Yes No** Do you store propane tanks or other fuels inside your home?
These items should be stored outside or in a separate shed. Flammable products give off flammable gasses. They need to be in the proper container, stored outside the home.

Electrical Safety

- Yes No** Are extension cords used safely?
There never seems to be an outlet where you need one. Extension cords used continuously are a potential fire hazard. Never run a cord under carpets, rugs or mats. Cords can be easily damaged from wear.
- Yes No** Do you have ground fault protection near the sinks in kitchens and bathrooms?
Ground fault protection can help prevent electrocution hazards. Regularly test and reset the device.
- Yes No** Do you have any junction boxes, or electrical boxes, that have exposed wiring?
Open wiring poses a shock hazard and potential fire hazard.
- Yes No** Is your electric panel have clear access and a well labeled directory?
If your home has an electrical problem, you need to be able to shut off the correct breakers in a hurry.

General Fire Safety

- Yes No** Are matches and lighter kept out of the reach of children?
Matches and lighters are tools, not toys. Children see how they are used and many times do not understand the danger associated with them.
- Yes No** If you smoke or entertain smokers, are the ash trays of appropriate size and non-combustible?
Make sure you provide the correct container, and never dispose of ashes before extinguishing them with water or placing them in a metal container.

How did you do?

