



Home Fire Safety Inspection Check List

Electrical Hazards

- Are the small and large appliances checked on a regular basis to assure they are operating correctly?
- Are you careful not to run extension cords under rugs, over hooks, and nails?
- Are you careful not to twist, wrap, tie, or place too many bends in an extension cord? Never tie an extension cord in a knot.
- Are you using extension cords for longer than 90 days?
- Are you careful not to use extension cords for appliances, space heaters, water heaters, and other appliances that required more electricity?
- Have you considered having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician, so you do not have to use extension cords?
- Are you careful to make sure appliances like space heaters, water heaters, and humidifiers and dehumidifiers are plugged in directly to an outlet?
- Do you avoid overloading outlets?
- Do you replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords?
- Do you have outlets or switches that feel warm?
- Do your lights dim when appliances are turned on?
- Do your lights flicker?
- Do you trip the same circuits repeatedly?
- Have several light bulbs gone out at the same time?
- Is there adequate wiring in all rooms for today's electronics?
- Do you make sure the correct light bulbs are used with light fixtures and lamps? Make sure the watts on the light bulb do not exceed the light fixture/lamps manufactures instructions.
- Do you place lamps on level surfaces and away from things that can burn?
- In homes with small children, have you made sure your home has tamper-resistant (TR) receptacles?
- Does your home have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in the kitchen bathroom(s), laundry, basement, and outdoor areas?
- Do you have Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) installed in your home to protect electrical outlets?

Dryer Safety

- Do you clean the lint from your dryer vent after every use?
- Do you have your dryer vents and the area around the motor cleaned professionally every year?

Housekeeping

- Is your home or cabin Firewise/wildland fire protected?
- Do you keep rubbish cleaned out of attics, garages, under steps and in the yard?
- Is paint kept in tightly closed metal containers?
- Have you made it a rule to never use flammable liquids for cleaning clothes or starting fires?
- Are oily rags kept in a tightly sealed metal container?
- Have all dried grass cuttings, tree trimmings, and weeds been removed from your property?
- If you use a peat mixture for potting outdoor plants, do you empty the pots out that are around the exterior of you home before they start to decay?
- Do you store propane tanks in a shed and not in your basement or attached garage?

Matches/Lighters and Careless Smoking Habits

- Do you keep all matches and lighters out of children's reach?
- Do you teach your children lighters and matches are tools for adults and not toys?
- Do you allow smoking in your home?
- Have you made a fire safe the smoking area for you and your guest by providing a medal heavy ash can a distance away from your home/structure? Remove any plants/pots with peat.
- Is "No Smoking in Bed" a rule of the house?
- Is your family aware that ashtrays should never be emptied into wastebaskets?
- Are there plenty of large ashtrays with a center island throughout the house?
- Do you check for smoldering cigarettes butts in the furniture after entertaining in your home?

Heating and Cooking

Fireplace

- Is the screen always in front of your fireplaces?
- Has your wood burning fireplace been inspected and cleaned by a professional company?

- Has your gas fireplace been inspected by a professional company?
- Does your chimney have a "spark arrester" or spark catching cover?
- Do you make sure combustibles are not stored near the stove, heater or fireplace?

Water Heater

- Is your water heater in good repair?
- Do you check your hot water heater release valve to make sure it is in working order?

Furnace

- Is your furnace in good condition? Has it been inspected in the last five years?
- Do you keep clearance around you furnace, wood stove, and water heater?
- Is the filter for your forced air heater changed yearly and the venting cleaned?
- Is your wood burning stove in good repair and located away from combustible walls and ceiling?

Heating Lamps

- Do you read the instructions when using any type of heating lamp?
- Do you keep heating lamps a safe distance from combustibles? (Read the manufactures instructions to determine a safe distance).
- Do you use the correct blub/wattage recommend for the lamp?

Kitchen/Cooking

- Do you teach your children how to cook and read directions?
- Do you keep the area around your stove top clear of recipe cards, cookbooks, hand towels, potholders, and other combustibles?
- Do you read the directions and warning labels when using a new cooking ingredient, appliance, or recipe?
- Do you use the correct temprature for the cooking oil you are using?
- Do you have StoveTop FireStops installed above your stove top?
- Do you know how to put out a stovetop fire safety?
 - DO NOT TOUCH THE PAN/POT
 - DO NOT USE WATER!
 - Slide a lid, cookie sheet, pizza pan, or pie tin over the top
 - Turn off the heat
 - Leave the pot on the stovetop over night or until the . end of the day.

Smoke Alarms & CO Alarms

- Have you installed smoke alarms outside sleeping areas, inside each sleeping room, on every level of your home, and in rooms where people sleep?
- Do you keep the doors to bedrooms closed at night or when people are sleeping?
- Do you keep all the doors in your house closed when you are gone?
- Do you check your smoke alarm (s) every month?
- Do you change your smoke alarm (s) batteries twice a year? (Change your clock, change your battery).
- Is your Smoke alarm (s) over 10 years old? Smoke alarms should be changed every 8-10 years.
- Do you vacuum and dust your smoke alarms?
- Have you installed CO alarms?
- Are your Carbon Monoxide Alarms installed in the proper place?
- How old is your CO Alarms? CO alarms should be changed according to manufactures instructions.

Calling 9-1-1

- Do all family members know how to dial 9-1-1 for fire, police or medical emergencies?
- Do your children know how to dial 9-1-1 from a cell phone, a cell phone that is locked, a phone with a key pad, or a rotary phone?
- Is a phone available for all family members to call 9-1-1 at all times?
- Do your children know what to do if they can find or don't know how to use a phone?

Fire Escape Plan

- Does your family have a fire escape plan prepared?
- Is your escape plan posted and regularly practiced?
- Does each bedroom have two ways out/exits?
- Does your family know how to signal for help if they are trapped in an upper floor of your home?
- Does your family have a meeting place?
- Has someone in your family been assigned to assist younger children, seniors living in your home, and anyone who is disabled?
- Does your family (and babysitter) know the first rule in fire emergencies: GET EVERYONE OUT FAST AND DON'T GO BACK INSIDE?
- Do you show your babysitter the escape routes from your home?

Fire Extinguishers

- Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home, garage, car, and boat?
- Is your fire extinguisher current or expired? If the arrow of the dial is on the edge or no longer in the green area on the dial your fire extinguisher is expired.
- Do you know how to use a fire extinguisher using the P.A.S. S method?
 - **Pull the Pin** at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.
 - **Aim at the base of the fire**, not the flames. This is important - in order to put out the fire, you must extinguish the fuel.
 - **Squeeze the lever slowly**. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.
 - **Sweep from side to side**. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out. Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, several feet away, and then move towards the fire once it starts to diminish. Remember: Aim at the base of the fire, not at the flames!!

Caution do to use a fire extinguisher on a stovetop fire if you do not know how to use it properly.

Teaching

- Do you take advantage of teachable moments by explaining to children how fire is used as a tool, to respect fire, and how to be safe around fire?
- Do you teach your children that fire is a tool for adults and not a toy?
- Dose your children stay a safe distance from flame and heat sources (3 feet)?
- Do you teach your children about vapors and do they understand how vapors work?
- Do you teach your children how to cook and use kitchen appliances correctly?
- Do you teach your children to read directions and warning labels?

General Prevention and Safety

- Do you have an Emergency Preparedness Plan?
- Do you extinguish candles when you leave the area?
- Do you use non-combustible candle holders to set candles in or on?
- Do you teach your children that candles are tools for adults and not toys?
- Do you have a rule in your home that no candles are allowed in children's bedrooms?
- Do you make it a good practice to never run the dishwasher, clothes dryer, or washing machine when you are not home?

- Do icicles from above or on your gas meter in the winter months?
- Do you read the manufacture instructions on the items you purchase for your home?
- Do your children know their addresses?
- Are there holes in the fire wall between your house and garage?
- Is the door to you garage fire rated?

You can request a Fire Safety Home Inspection from the Excelsior Fire District.

You should also consider hiring a certified electrician, a certified home inspector, and ask you local natural gas supplier or appliance store to come to you home and inspect all you appliances with a pilot light an make sure they are in good repair and not emitting carbon monoxide.

Check out the safety articles on this web site for more information on the items listed above.

Check out these web sites to find local people and business to help you complete your home safety check list.

Southlake-Excelsior Chamber of Commerce
www.southlake-excelsiorchamber.com

Business Network International (BNI)
www.bniexcelsior.com or info@bniexcelsior.com

Kellie Murphy-Ringate, Excelsior Fire District Fire Marshal, 952-960-1692 or
kmurphyringate@excelsiorfire.org

For more information on safety go to www.excelsiorfire.com

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