



*Prepare your family and home to be fire safe!*

# Home Fire Safety

Use these tips and checklist to help ensure you, your family and your home are safe.

## Is your home fire safe?

Items not checked may put you at higher risk from fire.

### Heating

- Baseboard heaters are at least 12 inches from curtains and furniture.
- Chimneys and heating systems inspected, cleaned and repaired each year.
- Portable heaters are at least three feet from bedding and furniture; plugged directly into the wall, and turned off when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Every fireplace is equipped with a sturdy metal screen.

### Electrical

- Use as few cord adapters and extension cords as possible. Instead use a power strip that has a surge protector.
- Extension cords are only used for temporary use; are not tacked to walls, run under rugs or through doorways.
- Small appliances, like the toaster, are unplugged when not in use.
- Appliances have a seal of approval from independent testing lab.

### Housekeeping

- Matches and lighters are kept out of children's reach in a secure place.
- Paint, varnish, and other flammables are stored in sturdy metal containers and in a cool place.
- Ashes from fireplaces and barbecues are only disposed of in metal containers.
- Candles are only lit when someone is able to keep an eye on them, and when placed in a sturdy holder away from things that can burn.

### Kitchen

- Cooking is never left unattended and the stove is clear of items that can catch fire. In the event of a pan fire, cover it with a lid or cookie sheet and turn off the heat.
- The oven is never used to heat the home.

### Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

- Smoke and CO alarms are installed on a ceiling or high on the wall inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Alarms are tested once a month and batteries are changed once a year.
- If the smoke or CO alarm sounds, get out and call 911.

# Home Fire Escape Plan

- Make a plan for every room and every member of your home.
- Every room should have two ways out, including windows.
- Ensure windows used for escaping can be opened easily. Security bars for bedrooms must have quick release devices and be operable by everyone in the household.
- Have a meeting place outside, away from the home where you will call 911.

## Tips for a safe escape

- Discuss and practice the
- escape plan with all family members and caretakers— during the day and at night.
- If you see smoke, try another way out. If you can't avoid it, crawl low and get out quickly.
- Stay out and do not go back inside. Possessions can be replaced, you can not.



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Palm Beach County Fire Rescue - Community Education - 561-616-7033

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