



# How Fire Safe Is **YOUR** Home?

Make fire safety a “family business” by involving the entire family in a fire safety inspection. Here’s a comprehensive checklist to use as a guide.

## **Kitchen**

- ✓ Matches stored out of the reach of children
- ✓ No overloaded outlets, worn or frayed extension or appliance cords
- ✓ No curtains or towel racks close to the range
- ✓ Flammable liquids (*cleaning fluids, contact adhesives, etc.*) or aerosols stored away from the range or other heat source (*Remember, even a pilot light can set vapors on fire.*)
- ✓ Don’t store items above the range where someone could get burned reaching for them (especially small children in search of cookies or other goodies)

## **Living Room, Family Room, Den, Bedrooms**

- ✓ No extension cords run under rugs or carpets or looped over nails or other sharp objects that could cause them to fray; Replace or fix overloaded or frayed extension cords
- ✓ Fireplace kept screened and cleaned regularly
- ✓ Use only large ashtrays and empty them frequently when there is no heat or burning left (*Small ashtrays are too dangerous.*)
- ✓ Sufficient air space around TV, stereo and other electronic equipment to avoid overheating
- ✓ Space Heaters kept three feet away from curtains, furniture and papers

## **Basement, Garage, Storage Areas**

- ✓ No newspapers or other rubbish stored near furnace, water heater, or other heat source
- ✓ No oily, greasy rags stored, except when kept in labeled and sealed non-glass containers (*preferably metal*)
- ✓ No gasoline or other flammable liquids stored in the house, basement, or near a workbench or pilot light.
- ✓ No overloaded outlets or extension cords and all electrical fuses should be the correct size

## **Dangerous actions:**

Do you allow unsafe habits? These guidelines may help your family become more safety aware.

- ✓ Wear close-fitting sleeves while cooking. (*No loose sleeves, shirts, blouses or skirts that may catch fire.*)
- ✓ Never leave cooking unattended.

- ✓ Never use gasoline to start a fire in the grill or add lighter fluid to an already-started fire.
- ✓ No smoking while fueling a vehicle or a boat or a gas powered tool like a lawn mower.
- ✓ No smoking in bed, or in a chair or on the sofa when tired, drinking or taking medication.
- ✓ Never spray aerosols while smoking or near a space heater, range or other ignition source.
- ✓ No smoking while using a cleaning fluid, paint thinner or other flammable liquid.
- ✓ Never use a cigarette lighter after spilling flammable fluid on your hands or clothing.
- ✓ Never reach over a range or climb onto a range to get something stored above it.
- ✓ Never lean against a range for warmth or stand too close to a heater or fireplace.
- ✓ Never let a small child to blow out a match.
- ✓ Never use a lighted match, lighter or candle to illuminate a dark area, such as a closet.

**Safety Measures:** Do you have these safety items in your home?

- ✓ Working smoke detectors on all levels and outside sleeping areas (*each story or wing, basement, etc.*) Have you tested the detector in the last month?
- ✓ ABC or ABCD fire extinguisher in the kitchen and/or workshop?
- ✓ Emergency exit plan, with two ways out from each room and a meeting place outdoors?