



## FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

by the U.S. Fire Administration

### IS YOUR HOME PREPARED?

- Keep a fire extinguisher handy, especially in the kitchen
- Place smoke detectors near bedrooms and on every floor
- Test the batteries and clean dust from smoke detectors monthly
- Change batteries at least once a year
- Keep smoke detectors away from air vents
- Place smoke detectors at least 4 to 6 inches away from walls or corners
- Replace old smoke detectors
- Make sure there is a smoke detector in your garage
- Experts estimate that the useful lifespan of a smoke detector is about 10 years

### HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

- Have an escape plan and make sure all family members know about it
- Practice the plan every six months
- Keep emergency numbers, a whistle, and a flashlight near the telephone
- Identify an outside meeting place
- Never reenter a burning building
- Know how to call for emergency assistance

### BURN CARE

- Keep the burn victim comfortable and from being chilled or overheated
- Cool the burn by flushing with water
- Cover the burn with a dry, clean covering such as a sterile dressing
- Don't apply ice unless it is a very minor burn
- Don't try to clean a severe burn
- Don't break blisters
- Don't remove pieces of cloth that stick to the burned area
- Don't use any kind of ointment on a severe burn

### SAFE SMOKING HABITS

- Never smoke in bed
- Keep ashtrays away from upholstered furniture and curtains
- Always attend to burning cigarettes

### WOODSTOVES AND FIREPLACES

- Only use seasoned wood, and never use green wood, artificial logs or trash
- Always use a protective screen
- Clean interiors, hearths and chimneys yearly

### SAFE COOKING PRACTICES

- Don't leave food unattended on the stove
- Keep loose-fitting or dangling clothing away from burners
- Keep appliances clean and free of grease and crumbs
- Keep curtains and other combustibles away from the stove
- Make sure the stove is off and small appliances are unplugged before going to bed

### SUPPLEMENTAL HEATERS AND RADIATORS

- Use only in well-ventilated rooms
- Do not use heaters to dry clothing or other items
- Keep heaters at a safe distance from curtains, furniture and all other combustibles
- Unplug electrical heaters when they are not being used
- Plug electrical heaters directly into wall sockets, and not into extension cords
- Place unit where it will not be knocked over easily
- It is recommended to refuel Kerosene heaters outdoors
- Be sure kerosene heaters are legal in your area. Fill only with K-1 Kerosene, and never use gasoline or camp stove fuel

### ELECTRICAL WIRING

- Replace wiring if it is frayed or cracked
- Do not place wiring under rugs, over nails, or in high traffic areas
- Avoid overloading outlets and make sure they stay cool to the touch
- Keep covers over electric plates and avoid exposed wiring

### CHILDREN AND FIRE SAFETY

- Keep lighters and matches away from children
- Teach children how to call for emergency assistance
- Use safety plugs in electrical outlets

