

## Home Fire Safety Inspection Check List

### Property Identification

- Check that house numbers are clearly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property.

### Exiting

- Sleeping rooms require an emergency escape separate from the main exit. The most common emergency escape is an egress window. Specific information on egress windows is available upon request.
- Check to make sure that all doors and windows open from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort.
- Check that doors and windows are free of any obstructions that would impair escape.
- Develop and practice an emergency escape plan including two ways out of every room. Emergency escapes from sleeping rooms are extremely important.

### Attached Garages

- Attached garages must be separated from the dwelling by a gypsum wall which extends from floor to ceiling on the garage side.
- Check that doors separating an attached garage from the dwelling are self-closing and tight fitting. Doors should be constructed of solid wood 1 3/8 inches thick, insulated steel or have a fire protection rating.

### Electrical

- Inspect all electrical cords and plugs. Repair or replace all damaged parts.
- Inspect all electrical outlets for damage. Repair or replace all damaged parts.
- Extension cords should not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring. Install electrical outlets where needed.
- Use electrical power taps when more than two appliances are on one outlet. Approved power taps are polarized or grounded and equipped with over-current protection.
- Multi-plug adapters lacking over-current protection should not be used.

### Fire Extinguishers

- Check that at least one portable fire extinguisher is present inside the home. Extinguishers should be inspected monthly and serviced annually. Additional fire extinguishers are recommended for each level.
- Fire extinguishers with a minimum rating of 3A, 40BC are recommended.

### Smoke Detectors

- Check to make sure that smoke detectors are located in hallways near all sleeping rooms. Install smoke detectors if none are present. Installation of additional smoke detectors in each sleeping room is recommended.
- Check to make sure that smoke detectors are installed in basements of dwellings having an interior stairway leading to the basement.
- Test smoke detectors monthly. Replace batteries twice each year to ensure proper operation. Hard-wired smoke detectors (110v) may also be equipped with a battery for back-up power. This battery also requires replacement.
- Clean smoke detectors using a vacuum cleaner twice every year.

- Smoke detectors more than ten years old should be replaced.

#### Storage

- Check that gasoline powered equipment and flammable liquids such as gasoline, paint thinners and solvents are removed from the dwelling. Store them outside in a garage or storage shed.
- Keep all paint stored inside the dwelling tightly sealed. Store in a manner that prevents them from falling and opening up.

#### Heating Equipment

- Furnaces should be inspected annually by a qualified individual to ensure safe operation.
- Check that combustible materials are not located or stored near furnaces, boilers or water heaters. A minimum clearance of 18 inches is recommended.
- Unvented portable oil burning heaters should not be used in residential buildings.
- Unvented fuel-fired room heaters should not be used in sleeping rooms or bathrooms.
- Heating appliances installed in garages should be at least 18 inches above the floor.

#### Fireplaces and Wood Burning Stoves

- Fireplaces and wood burning stoves should be inspected annually by a qualified individual to ensure safe operation.
- Clean the chimney regularly to remove any build-up of tar and creosote.
- Ashes removed from fireplaces or wood burning stoves should be put in a metal container with a metal top. The container should be removed from the dwelling immediately.

#### Matches and Lighters

- Check that matches and lighters are kept in a safe place out of the reach of children.
- Cigarette ashes should be put in a metal container.

#### Holiday Safety

- Use only low power electrical lights on real trees.
- Keep real trees adequately watered.
- Keep candles away from combustible decorations or furnishings. Keep candles out of the reach of children.