



## **State Fire Marshal's Office**

### **Home Safety Series: How Fire Safe Is Your Home?**

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

#### **Kitchen**

Keep matches and lighters stored out of reach of children.

No over loaded outlets, worn, or frayed extension of appliance cords.

Flammable liquids or aerosols stored away from the range or other heat source.

Do not store items above the range where someone could get burned reaching for them.

If you can, use the back burners to cook because they are the safest.

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

Make sure no extension cords run under rugs or carpets, or are looped over nails or other sharp objects that could cause them to fray. Replace overloaded or frayed extension cords.

See that fireplaces are kept screened and cleaned regularly.

Keep space heaters at least three feet away from curtains, furniture, and papers.

Never smoke in bed – period!

## **Basement, Garage, and Storage Area**

Make sure no newspapers or other trash is stored near the furnace, water heater, or other heat source.

Dispose of oily, greasy rags in a safe, sealed container.

Make sure no gasoline or other flammable liquids are stored in the house, basement, or near a workbench or pilot light.

Ensure there are no overloaded outlets or extension cords.

Store your lawnmower in an outdoor tool shed. If you must store it in the garage, keep it as far from the water heater as possible.

## **Dangerous Actions**

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

- 1) Wear close-fitting sleeves while cooking.
- 2) Never use gasoline to start a fire in the grill, or add lighter fluid to an already lit fire.
- 3) No smoking in bed, in a chair, or on the sofa when tired, drinking, or taking medication.
- 4) Never spray aerosols while smoking or near a space heater, range, or other ignition source.
- 5) No smoking while using a cleaning fluid, paint thinner, or other flammable liquid.
- 6) Never lean against a range for warmth or stand too close to a lit fireplace.
- 7) Never use a lighted match, lighter, or candle to illuminate a dark area like a closet.
- 8) Never plug major appliances into a power strip. Use the wall outlets.
- 9) Never keep anything permanently plugged into an extension cord.

## **Safety Measures**

Do you have these safety items in your home?

- 1) Working smoke alarms on all levels and outside sleeping areas? Have you tested the alarms in the last month?
- 2) ABC or ABCD fire extinguisher in the kitchen and/or workshop?
- 3) An emergency exit plan, with two ways out from each room?
- 4) A meeting place outdoors?

Remember, know two ways out of every room you go in to. Have an EXIT Strategy!

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