

# Home Fire Safety Checklist

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## Special points of interest:

- Do you have an emergency weather radio to notify you of severe weather such as a tornado?
- Protect your head and neck and go to an interior hall or basement for protection
- Have a crank radio or battery operated radio and flashlight ready to take with you to your tornado safe spot

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Are extension cords used safely? (NOT under rugs and carpets, across doorways or near a heat source where they can overheat)

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Are electrical cords in good condition, without cracks or frayed areas?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Are kitchen appliances—such as the coffee-maker, toaster oven, and microwave—plugged into separate receptacle outlets?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you use light bulbs that have the correct wattage for the fixture and use only 15 amp fu household lighting circuits?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO



## MATCHES & CARELESS SMOKING SAFETY

Do you keep matches away from sources of heat?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Is “No Smoking in Bed” a rule in your home?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you know where your main electrical panel is located?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Have you replaced all frayed or broken electrical cords?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you have special circuits for heavy duty appliances?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

When you buy electrical equipment and appliances, do you always look for the



Do you have an electrical octopus? DO NOT use multi-plug outlets—Use only fused power strips!

UL label of Underwriters’ Laboratories, Inc.?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you use electrical appliances near water?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you have qualified electricians install or extend your wiring?

Do you have plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays in every room?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you make sure matches & smoking materials are out before disposing of

them?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Do you keep all lighters and matches out of reach of children or in a locked cabinet? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

## COOKING SAFETY

Is your kitchen stove including the oven and the broiler, kept clean of grease?

YES  NO

Are your kitchen counters & stove tops clean and uncluttered?

YES  NO

Are there pot holders within easy reach of the stove?

YES  NO

Are pot handles turned inward so they can't be bumped?

YES  NO

Are curtains and other things that can burn well away from the stove?

YES  NO

Do you wear tight fitting sleeves or



Always have a proper size lid for your pots and pans when cooking!

roll them up when cooking?

YES  NO

Do you unplug appliances when not in use?

YES  NO

Never leave cooking food unattended! Have stovetop and oven checked annually to be sure they are working properly and have any broken or frayed wires replaced by a professional!

## HEATING SAFETY

Are portable space heaters always turned off when not in room or when you go to bed?

YES  NO

If you use a space heater; are they at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including people, furniture, and pets?

YES  NO

Before the heating season begins, do

you have your heating system inspected and serviced?

YES  NO

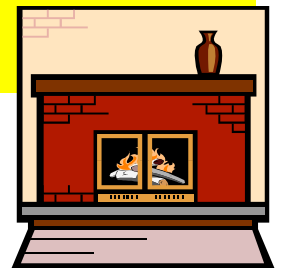
Do you burn seasoned wood & is it stored in the proper place?

YES  NO

Are your vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls properly installed?

YES  NO

Does your fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks? Has your chimney been inspected & cleaned during the past year? Has your furnace been serviced by a professional in the past year?



## HOUSEKEEPING SAFETY

Do you keep your basement, closets & attic clear of rags, papers and other combustible materials?

YES  NO

After using oily polishing rags, do you destroy them



or place them in covered metal cans?

YES  NO

If you store paint, varnish, and other items do you keep the containers tightly closed?

YES  NO

Has everyone in your family been warned never to use gasoline or other flammable liquids for cleaning clothes, furnishings or floors?

YES  NO

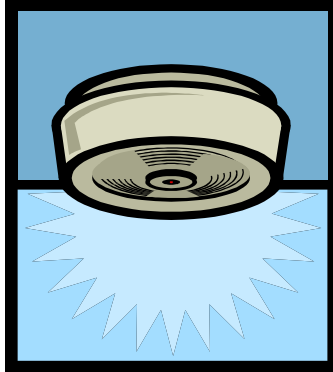
## SMOKE ALARMS

Do you have smoke detectors installed on every level of the home? Outside bedroom areas, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

YES  NO

Do you test all detectors monthly and change batteries when you change your clocks (twice a year)?

YES  NO



a window, from each room?

YES  NO

Are all the exits in your home clear of furniture, toys and clutter?

YES  NO

Does your family have a home fire escape plan that includes two exits, usually a door and

Remember to always crawl (on your hands and knees) low under smoke and feel the door with the back of your hand-if the door is hot use your secondary exit (window).



## YARD & GARAGE SAFETY

Do you keep your yard cleaned of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish?

YES  NO

If you keep gasoline for use in a power mower or outboard motor is it stored in a strong, clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can?

YES  NO

If your garage is attached to the

house, is it separated by a fire rated door which is kept closed?

YES  NO

If you store kerosene, is it placed in an approved blue and white container that is clearly labeled kerosene?

YES  NO

If any surrounding property is vacant, have weeds, dry leaves and rubbish been cleared off?

YES  NO

Never leave candles unattended! Keep candles away from draperies, shower curtains and all combustible materials.

Make sure candles are extinguished before leaving the room or going to bed for the evening!

## BATHROOM & UTILITY SAFETY

Are your appliance cords away from sink or tub so they don't get wet?

YES  NO

Do you have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in the bathroom, kitchen and other rooms with water or moisture? These shut off the current

when there is a danger of electrical shock.

YES  NO

Use hairdryers, curling and flat irons away from items that might burn. Never leave hot curling & flat irons unattended. Unplug when finished.

Do you clean lint from dryer screen before each use?

YES  NO

Is your dryer plugged into a separate outlet and vented to the outside?

YES  NO

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The Division takes customer service and service delivery very seriously. As the Fire Chief, I will ensure that those that live, work, play or visit our community will always receive the best service available anywhere. I am proud to be affiliated with the Division of Fire. The Division, as a family, is proud to serve you as a community. Our mission is to provide superior fire, emergency medical, educational and prevention services to the citizens we serve. By consistently delivering these services in a courteous, safe and professional manner, we hope to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Vandalia.

Please feel free to provide comments via email or you can call me directly at (937) 898-2261

Chad E. Follick, Fire Chief

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## HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Do you have a fire escape plan? Make sure your fire escape plan shows two ways out from every room including the basement and bedrooms.

YES  NO

Has your family picked a safe place to meet outside your home? (A tree away from the house, a mailbox near the street, sidewalk)

YES  NO

Does everyone in your family know where the meeting place is? Make sure that everyone is accounted for and if someone is missing let the fire department know.

YES  NO

Have you and your family practiced a home fire drill within the last six months?

YES  NO

Do you know the fire department's emergency phone number (which should be called from a neighbor's house or cell phone)?

YES  NO

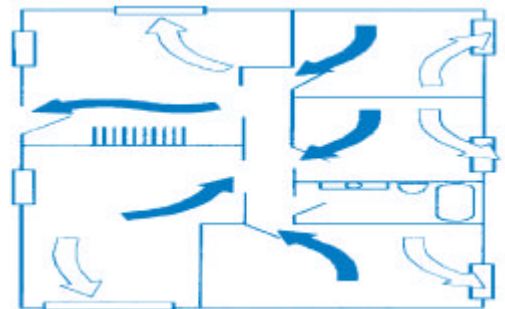
Do you or a family member have to use a walker, cane, wheelchair or need glasses to see clearly? Make sure that you have these aids nearby to assist you if you need to exit a building quickly.

YES  NO

### ALWAYS REMEMBER

IN A FIRE OR SMOKE CONDITION:

**REMAIN CALM—DON'T PANIC!  
NEVER GO BACK INSIDE FOR  
ANYTHING!**



Do you have a home fire escape plan that includes two exits, (usually a door and a window, from each room)?