

Fire Prevention and Safety Survey



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITY

Introduction

Home fires are one of the main causes of home injury and death. According to the National Fire Protection Association, 80 percent of fires in the United States occurred in the home; 3,925 deaths resulted from these home fires, and children under five years of age made up 17 percent of these deaths. Fires can grow and spread quickly. Any time that can be saved when trying to exit a burning building is valuable time that may save a life.

Did you know?

- 21 percent of children surveyed said that the first thing they would do if a fire broke out in their home would be to telephone for help rather than get out of the house.
- Recent data from the U.S. Fire Administration shows that children under the age of five are at serious risk of being killed in a fire—nearly double the average population.

Fire Safety Survey

The best option is to be aware of fire safety issues to prevent a fire from occurring. Take this survey to become more aware of safety issues around your home. It is unlikely that you will answer “YES” to every question. You may want to address those “NO” issues in order to make your home more fire safe.

YES

NO

		Is your home address easily visible from the street? Emergency personnel need to be able to find your home quickly in case of emergencies.
		Do you replace the batteries of your smoke detectors at least once a year?
		Have you made a family escape plan from every room in the house, and does every member of your household know and practice this plan?
		Do you have emergency numbers posted at all phones?
		Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home and do you and other family members know how to use it?
		Do all the windows operate smoothly to allow for quick and easy exit?
		Are matches and lighters stored out of reach of children?
		Are your combustibles stored safely?
		If you have a fireplace, does it have a screen to protect from flying embers?
		Is your chimney operating properly?
		Do you clear all combustibles away from any potential fire source, such as kitchen stoves and ovens, furnaces, and water heaters? Do you clear away combustibles from around your home?
		Do you change your furnace filter regularly?
		Do you use only recommended fuses in your fuse box?
		Do you store flammable liquids in fireproof containers, and do you know how to use safety precautions around flammable liquids?

Electrical Fire Safety

Electrical equipment can cause fires. Wires, switches, outlets, cords and plugs, fuse and circuit breaker boxes, and lighting fixtures and lamps must all be in good condition, or a fire might result.

Electrical fires cause the deaths of approximately 485 people in the United States each year and result in an additional 2,305 injuries. The majority of electrical fires occur because of poor maintenance of electrical appliances, faulty wiring, and overloaded circuits.



Did you know?

- The heat of the fire can kill. Temperatures in a room with fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and 600 degrees at eye level. Temperatures this hot will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.
- It takes only five minutes for flashover—when the room gets so hot that everything ignites at once—to occur.
- Fire produces so much black smoke that complete darkness results. You can wake up sightless, disoriented, and unable to make your way out of a home you've lived in for years.
- The smoke and poisonous gases produced by a fire can also kill you. Only small amounts are enough to leave you drowsy, disoriented, and gasping for breath.

Important! In the event of a fire, remember **time** is the biggest enemy and every second counts!

Electrical Safety Tips

Read the electrical safety tips below and then check your home for any problems you may have. Place a check in the box if you find a problem with the electrical issue discussed in the tip and then try to correct the problem quickly for fire safety!

Problems!

	There are no loose or frayed cords on electrical devices.
	There are no extension cords running across doorways or under carpets. Do you limit extension cord use whenever possible and do you check them for overheating?
	Electrical outlets have plastic safety covers if there are small children in the home.
	Outlets are not overloaded. There is only one high-wattage appliance plugged into each receptacle in the outlet at a time.
	Whenever outlets, wires, or switches feel warm, the circuit is shut off and is checked by an electrician.
	Other devices that allow the connection of multiple appliances into a single receptacle are not used on a regular basis.
	Lamps are on level surfaces, away from things that can burn, and the lamps use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.
	Major appliances are properly grounded.