

# Is Your Home Safe from Fire?

The answer may surprise you.



Fire hazards may be lurking in your home where you least expect them. Take a few minutes to inspect your home for fire hazards. As you go from room to room, circle your responses to the questions below.

## Cooking Safety

- Yes No** Does an adult always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- Yes No** Are stove tops and nearby counters clear 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, utensils, paper towels and other things that can burn well away from the stove?
- Yes No** Is there a "kid-free" zone of one metre around the stove when adults are cooking?

## Candle Safety

- Yes No** Are candles placed in sturdy holders, out of reach of children and pets so they can't be knocked over?
- Yes No** Do you cover lit candles with glass chimneys, to prevent people or objects from brushing against the flame?
- Yes No** Do you always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed?

## Heating Safety

- Yes No** If space heaters are used in your home, are they at least one metre away from things that can burn, including curtains, furniture, pets?
- Yes No** Does your fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks?
- Yes No** Are portable space heaters always turned off when adults leave the room or go to sleep?
- Yes No** Has your chimney been inspected and cleaned during the past year?
- Yes No** Has your furnace been serviced by a professional in the past year?
- Yes No** Are propane tanks, gasoline, or other fuels stored safely outside your home?

## Matches and Lighters

- Yes No** Are matches and lighters stored out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet?
- Yes No** If you smoke, do you have just one lighter or book of matches and keep it with you at all times?

## Electrical Safety

- Yes No** Are extension cords used safely? (Are they not under carpets or across doorways?)
- Yes No** Are electrical cords in good condition, without cracks or frayed areas?
- Yes No** Are kitchen appliances— such as the kettle, coffee-maker, toaster oven and microwave, plugged into separate outlets?

## Smoke Alarms

- Yes No** Does your home have working smoke alarms on every level and outside all sleeping areas?
- Yes No** Are the batteries working in all your smoke alarms? (Test the battery by pushing the test button. If there is no button, press the centre of the cover.)
- Yes No** Do you have a designated person to test the smoke alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once per year?

## Home Fire Escape Planning

- Yes No** Are all of the exits in your home clear of furniture, toys and clutter?
- Yes No** Do you have a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room (if possible)?
- Yes No** Have you picked a safe place outside where everyone will meet after exiting the home?
- Yes No** Have you practiced a home fire drill with everyone in your household?

### What's your score?

Add up the number of “yes” responses in your checklist. Give yourself one point for every “yes” response.

Our Score: \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered “yes” to all of the 27 checklist questions above, congratulations! You are a fire safety expert!

If you answered “yes” to at least 20 questions, you’re well on your way to a fire safe home.

If you answered “yes” to between 15 and 20 questions, you’re on the right track but there is still some work to be done.

If you answered “yes” to fewer than 15 questions, there are some important changes that need to be made around your home to make sure everyone in your home is safe from fire.