

Emergency Preparedness – Home Fire Safety Checklist

Most fatal fires start in the home; however, you can help protect your family and home by taking a few simple steps. Walk through your home with "fire-safe eyes" using this checklist:

- _____ In case of fire, the most important thing to do is "get out and stay out!" Call 911 from a neighbor's house.
- _____ Have smoke detectors in **every** bedroom and in the hallway areas outside each bedroom.
- _____ Check smoke detectors monthly by pushing the test button.
- _____ Replace smoke detector batteries if you have not done so in the past year.
- _____ Develop and **practice** a home fire escape plan.
- _____ Maintain a minimum 3-foot clearance around heat producing appliances or anything with a pilot light, such as water heaters and furnaces.
- _____ Have a minimum 5-lb. dry chemical fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A-40BC.
- _____ Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, paint thinner, oil-based paints and propane tanks outside your home in a shed or detached garage. **Never** store flammable liquids or propane containers of any kind in the same room, garage or closet with a furnace or water heater.
- _____ Check all plugs and electrical cords to lamps, appliances and computers and make sure they are not worn or damaged. If cords are even slightly damaged, have a qualified repairperson replace the cord or plug. **Never** run cords beneath carpets or pads.
- _____ Carefully check electric blankets for wear and replace them every 5 years. **Consider not using them at all.**
- _____ Keep all cooking appliances such as stoves, ovens and microwaves clean and free of grease accumulations.
- _____ If you ever use your fireplace, have it professionally checked and cleaned annually.
- _____ Keep your roof clear of any accumulations of leaves or pine needles. Keep a 30-foot area around your home free of dry, flammable vegetation.
- _____ Keep a screen or spark arresting device on your chimney.
- _____ Use outdoor cooking grills with caution. **Never** use gasoline to start the fire and don't add charcoal lighter once the fire has started.

For information and brochures on the above topic, contact the Monterey Fire Dept. at 831.646.3900.