



# HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST



## Inside the home

### Alarms\*

- There are smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home.
- You test smoke/carbon monoxide alarms once per month.
- Batteries are replaced yearly.
- You can hear all alarms in the home, especially in sleeping areas.
- Smoke alarms more than 10 years old are replaced.

\*Check manufacturer's instructions on alarm installation, testing, maintenance and replacement requirements

### Escape planning

- Family/residents have prepared and practiced a home fire escape plan, including meeting place.
- Everyone knows what to do once a fire starts, including those who help children, older adults and pets.
- Everyone knows two exits from each bedroom or sleeping area.
- Entrances are free and clear of obstructions.
- Overnight guests are aware of the home escape plan and meeting place.
- Everyone knows to call 9-1-1 in an emergency from a safe phone outside the residence.
- Everyone knows to **get out and stay out**. No one goes back in!

### Kitchen

- Cooking is never left unattended.
- Check for cracked/worn electrical cords on appliances.
- Countertop appliances are unplugged when not in use.
- Curtains and towels are clear of heat sources.
- There is a fire extinguisher near the kitchen.

### Living areas

- Cracked/worn electrical cords are replaced as needed.
- Electrical outlets are never overloaded.
- Wires or electrical cords do not run under carpets/rugs.
- Extension cords are not used as permanent wiring.
- Gas and/or wood fireplaces have screens.
- Gas appliances are inspected annually.
- Wood fireplace chimneys are cleaned annually.
- Electronics have airspace to prevent overheating.
- Portable heaters are away from doorways, combustibles and high-traffic areas.
- Hallways are clear of obstructions.
- Candles are extinguished when you leave the room or LED battery-operated candles are used.

**Bedrooms**

- Lamps are clear of combustibles like curtains or clothing.
- Bedroom doors are closed at night. (This can save your life.)
- Candles are extinguished before sleep or LED battery-operated candles are used.
- Windows open easily. (Security bars are quickly and easily opened from the inside.)
- Second- and third-level bedrooms have escape ladders.
- A phone is near your bed. (landline or cell phone)
- No one smokes in bed.

**Basement**

- Electrical panel is clear of obstructions.
- Furnace and hot water tank are clear of obstructions and combustibles.
- The furnace room stores no flammables.

**Garage**

- Gasoline is stored in an approved container in the shed, NOT in the garage.
- Used rags are stored in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid.
- A fire extinguisher is located in the garage.
- Garage is kept clear of sawdust/wood shavings.
- No car is ever left idling in the garage.

**Other**

- Matches and lighters are always out of the reach of children.
- Important papers (eg. documents, identification, heirlooms) are in a fire-resistant safe.

**Outside the home**

- Cigarettes are never extinguished in planters, on grass, in peat moss or mulch.
- Barbeques and firepits are a safe distance from the house and from combustibles (siding, decks, etc.)
- Children stay a safe distance from barbeques and firepits.
- Firepits are never left unsupervised.
- There is no debris or dead vegetation near the house
- Trees are pruned and thinned to reduce fuel potential.
- Woodpiles are stacked away from the house
- Branches hanging over or touching the roof are trimmed back.

**Emergency preparedness**

- Create an Emergency Kit: Include essentials like water, food, medications, important documents. Go to <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/> for more details.

**Perth Fire Services**

In case of an emergency: dial 9-1-1  
Non-emergency call: 613-267-5574  
Fire dispatch non-emergency: 613-283-1234

**WORKING  
SMOKE ALARMS  
SAVE LIVES**