

City of Norwich
Office of the Fire Marshal
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FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY **HOME SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

Everyone needs to do a little homework towards fire prevention and safety in our homes. Please take about 20 minutes to complete this home self-inspection checklist. The checklist can be used to help find the most common home fire and safety hazards. Parents or caregivers, ask your children to help you complete this checklist.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Yes No Are your house numbers visible from the street both day and night?
- Yes No Is the area around your home free of weeds and debris?
- Yes No Are appropriate ashtrays or other approved containers used for discarding smoking material?
- Yes No Are household chemicals kept in properly labeled containers and away from children?
- Yes No Is gasoline stored in an approved container in a detached shed away from all ignition sources?
- Yes No Are all matches and lighters stored up high and out of reach and sight of children?

SMOKE ALARMS, CO DETECTORS AND HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

- Yes No Do you have smoke alarms on every level, including the basement and outside of each sleeping area?
- Yes No Have you considered installing smoke alarms in each bedroom?
- Yes No Do you have at least one CO (Carbon Monoxide) detector in the living/sleeping area of your home? (CO detectors are only used in houses with fuel burning appliances, i.e., oil burners, natural gas and fireplaces)
- Yes No Are your smoke alarms and CO detectors installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions?
- Yes No Are your smoke alarms and CO detectors tested monthly?
- Yes No Can everyone hear the sound of the smoke alarm and know what it is?
- Yes No Are your smoke alarms or CO detectors less than 10 years old? Detectors and alarms that are older than ten years should be replaced.

- Yes No Have you changed your smoke alarm and CO detector batteries this year? Changing clocks at Daylight Saving Time is a good way to remember to do this.
- Yes No Are all exits kept clear of toys, furniture and clutter?
- Yes No Do the windows and doors work properly and can the person using the exit open it?
- Yes No Do you have a family fire escape plan?
- Yes No Do you have a safe meeting place outside after you exit your home?
- Yes No Have you and your family reviewed and practiced your family fire escape plan within the last six months?
- Yes No Do you know the emergency number for the fire department is 911? To report a fire, 911 should be called from your neighbor's phone or a cell phone after you have escaped.

CANDLE SAFETY

- Yes No Are candles extinguished when leaving the room or when going to bed?
- Yes No Are candles kept at least two feet away from any materials that can burn, including curtains, blinds, wallpaper, bulletin boards and clothing?
- Yes No Are candles placed in sturdy non-combustible holders large enough to collect dripping wax and that won't tip over easily?

COOKING SAFETY

- Yes No Is a grown-up staying in the kitchen when cooking on the stove?
- Yes No Are curtains, towels, pot holders, boxes, paper and other things that can burn, kept well away from the stove top and counter near the stove?
- Yes No Is the pan lid nearby to use in case a fire starts in the pan?
- Yes No Are pan handles turned inward so they cannot be bumped?
- Yes No Are outdoor grills and barbecues at least 10 feet from a building and on a non-combustible surface?
- Yes No Is there a "Kid-Free" zone three feet around the stoves and grills when grown-ups are cooking?

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Yes No Are extension cords being used properly? Cords should not be used to replace permanent wiring, covered with rugs or carpets or across doorways.
- Yes No Are electrical appliances in good repair? Replace all electrical cords that are frayed or worn.
- Yes No Are electrical lights clear of combustible materials?
- Yes No Are electric light bulbs the proper wattage for the fixtures they are installed in?
- Yes No Are UL approved power strips being used in electrical circuits with multiple appliances?

HEATING SAFETY

- Yes No Are portable space heaters turned off when adults leave the room for a long time or when they go to bed? (Fuel burning space heaters are illegal in multi-family dwelling)
- Yes No If portable space heaters are used, are they kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn like people, pets, papers, towels and furniture?
- Yes No Are combustibles stored at least three feet from furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves and gas stoves/?
- Yes No If you have a fireplace, does it have a sturdy screen in front of it to catch sparks?
- Yes No Do you used a covered metal container for wood stove and fireplace ashes? Do you let ashes cool for 72 hours prior to disposing of them?
- Yes No Has your fireplace and chimney been inspected and cleaned this year?
- Yes No Has your furnace been checked by a furnace service company this year?
- Yes No Are propane tanks and other fuels stored outside your home?
- Yes No Are clip-on heating lamps secured and not hanging over combustible materials when being used

Any areas that are checked NO could be a potential fire or safety hazard and should be corrected as soon as possible.

Please feel free to contact the City of Norwich Fire Marshal's office at 860-887-2780 for more information about fire prevention and safety. Additional information can be found at: www.norwichct.org and then select government, fire, Norwich Fire Department, then fire prevention.