

Home Safety Checklist

- Are indoor areas safe and free from hazards? (For example, stairs and railings are in good repair; radiators, space heaters and other heating units are covered; access to stairs and other risky areas is protected; electrical outlets are covered with safety caps; furniture and bookshelves are stable and will not tip over.)
- Are outdoor spaces safe and free from hazards? (For example, the yard is free from debris, broken glass, broken fences, things that might be “tipped over,” etc.; walkways are free of ice and snow; lawn and garden tools are securely put away; pools, ponds and hot tubs are securely closed off and/or covered.)
- Is the home free from any fire hazards? (For example, faulty electric cords combustible materials near sources of heat).
- Are there working smoke alarms in areas where people will be?
- Is there a fire evacuation plan? Is everyone in the household familiar with the evacuation plan?
- Are first aid supplies readily available? Does someone in the household know how to use them?
- Are all medications, poisonous chemicals, cleaning supplies, combustible materials and other hazardous materials securely stored out of reach of children or adults receiving care?
- Is there a working telephone or access to a working telephone? (Note: Cordless phones will not work in a power failure.)
- Are emergency numbers close by the phone and easy to see?
- Are pets safe to be around? If not, are they securely closed off from the person being cared for?
- Are firearms unloaded and kept in a locked storage area?
- Are diapering areas clean and sanitary?
- Are toys and play equipment clean, in good repair, and safe? (For example, no sharp edges, paint chips or loose parts.)
- If you are transporting the person receiving care, is your car in safe condition? Are seat belts, children’s car seats, and other safety systems in place and in good working condition?
- Do you have a backup plan in case you become ill, are called away in an emergency, or otherwise need to be away during respite care? Does the family know about and agree with your backup plan?