



# Take Steps to Prevent Fires

## CHECKLIST



### SMOKE ALARMS

Yes ☐ No ☐

#### **Does your home have working smoke alarms?**

Make sure you have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area (in hallway), and in each bedroom.

Yes ☐ No ☐

#### **Do you test your smoke alarms?**

Test your smoke alarms by pushing the test button at least once a month or according to manufacturer instructions.

Yes ☐ No ☐

#### **Do you know what it means if your smoke alarm chirps every 30-60 seconds?**

A single short beep, or "chirp," every 30 to 60 seconds means the battery is low. You may need to replace the battery.

Yes ☐ No ☐

#### **Are your smoke alarms 10 years old or more?**

Even if they seem to be working fine, **replace smoke alarms every 10 years or according to the manufacturer** to ensure they stay effective.

Yes ☐ No ☐

#### **Can you hear your smoke alarms? Can you hear them while you are sleeping?**

If not, smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.



## CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Yes ☐ No ☐

### **Do you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home?**

Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Test your carbon monoxide alarms by pushing the test button at least once a month or according to manufacturer instructions. If you cannot reach the alarm safely, ask for help.

Yes ☐ No ☐

### **Do you know what to do if your alarm sounds?**

Immediately move outdoors to fresh air and call 9-1-1. Stay outside until emergency personnel tell you it is safe to re-enter your home.

Yes ☐ No ☐

### **Do you know what steps you can take to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning at home?**

Check gas, coal and wood appliances for leaks and have them serviced by a professional, ensure vents leading outside are not blocked, and only use generators and grills outdoors.



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Yes ☐ No ☐

### **Do you check electrical cords in your home for damage?**

Inspect electrical cords and replace appliances with damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections. Do not try to repair them.

Yes ☐ No ☐

### **Do you have electrical cords placed under rugs?**

Cords can be damaged when pinched between furniture, walls, or doorways. If you have cords running under rugs or through doorways, unplug them and move them to a safer location.

Yes ☐ No ☐

### **Do you have multiple cords plugged into wall outlets, adaptors, or extension cords?**

Plug only one cord into each electrical outlet. Unplug small appliances when not in use.

Notes:

---

---

---



## HOME HEATING SAFETY

### Space Heater

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Are your space heaters three feet from items that can burn?**

Keep combustibles such as paper, trash, furniture, bedding, curtains, or clothes three feet away from all heat sources.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you unplug your space heater before you go to bed or leave the house?**

You should turn off and unplug heaters when leaving home or going to bed.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you use an extension cord with your space heater?**

Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and never into extension cords or power strips.



### Woodstove/Fireplace

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you have your woodstove or fireplace flue cleaned and inspected annually?**

Have flues inspected and serviced annually by a qualified service provider.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you store combustible items (paper, kindling, and wood) away from the fire?**

Store combustible items at least three feet from any heat source.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you use a fireplace screen?**

Using a fireplace screen will keep hot embers from escaping and igniting the surrounding area.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you dispose of ashes in a metal container, outside, and away from combustibles?**

Place ashes in metal containers to cool and keep them outside away from objects that could catch fire. Douse ashes with water before discarding.

Notes:

---

---

---



## Do you stay in the kitchen when you cook?

## Do you use oven mitts to handle hot pans?

## Do you know how to put out a pan fire?

Notes:

4



## COOKING SAFETY CONTINUED

**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

## Do you use a microwave oven to cook or heat food?

Scald burns are the leading cause of injury from microwaves. Open microwaved food slowly, away from your face. Allow food to cool before eating. Hot steam or the heated food can cause burns. Make sure the microwave is at a safe height with easy reach for user.

**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

## Do you know what to do if your clothes catch fire?

Stop (don't run) and drop gently to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll over and over or back and forth to smother the flames. If you can't stop, drop, and roll, smother the flames with a towel or blanket. Call 9-1-1 and get medical help immediately.

**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

**Do you wear tight fitting clothing or short sleeves when you cook?**

To prevent clothing from catching fire when cooking wear clothing with rolled-up or short sleeves.

Notes:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## Do you use candles?

### Are your candles located near anything that can burn?





OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

503-934-8228

[oregon.gov/osfm](http://oregon.gov/osfm)

[osfmce@osfm.oregon.gov](mailto:osfmce@osfm.oregon.gov)



## HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you know two ways out of every room and two ways out of your home?**

Plan your home fire escape and know two ways out of every room and two ways out of your home in the event of a fire. Keep exit paths clear of furniture and clutter. Practice your home fire escape plan.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you know what to do if you need to exit through smoke?**

If you must escape through smoke, stay low – cleaner air is near the floor. Once outside, never go back in for family, pets, or personal items. Once you are outside, call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone or a cell phone.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do your doors and windows open easily?**

Make sure you can open all doors and windows easily. Security bars should be equipped with quick-release devices. Make sure furniture and other heavy objects are not blocking your exits.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you have a telephone in your bedroom?**

Having a telephone or cell phone next to your bed is a good idea in case you are trapped or need to shelter in place and can't get out quickly.

Yes ☐ No ☐

**Do you or anyone in the family have limited mobility that would need assistance getting out in the event of an emergency?**

Develop your escape plan based on your abilities and those of your family. Practice the plan both during the day and at night. Teach everyone in your household (and your neighbors) about assistance you may need. If possible, your bedroom should be located on the first floor of your home so you can escape faster during an emergency.