HOME FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Exterior

- Ensure home address numbers are a minimum of four (4) inches tall and clearly visible from the street
- For homes located more than 50 feet from the street, post address numbers at the driveway entrance
- Have tree limbs trimmed away from overhead electrical wires and chimney
- Remove leaves/debris from roof, eaves and gutters

Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

- Install smoke alarms outside sleeping area (hallway) and on every level of the home
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside sleeping area and on every level of the home
- Test smoke and CO alarms once a month; use a broom handle to reach ceiling mounted units
- Units with removable batteries, replace battery once a year (Use Daylight Savings Time as a reminder)
- Install adaptive smoke and CO alarms for occupants with special needs
- Replace smoke and CO alarm units every 10 years (or earlier if recommended by the manufacturer) and dispose of properly

Electrical

- Do not overload electrical outlets; additional outlets should be installed by a qualified electrician
- Use power-strips equipped with a surge protector safety feature (pictured below)
- Inspect electrical cords for damage; electrical cords should never be frayed, cracked, pinned on the wall or placed under rugs
- Maintain air space around electrical equipment (TVs, DVD, stereo, etc.)
- Kitchen and bathroom outlets that are near countertop surfaces within six (6) feet of running water should have a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter outlet (GFCI outlet pictured below)
- If there are young children in the home, install tamper-resistant outlets or outlet safety covers
- Extension cords should only be used for temporary power needs; additional outlets should be installed by a qualified electrician when needed.
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Heating Equipment & Fireplace
- Keep combustibles at least three (3) feet away from space heaters and fireplace
- Ensure space heaters are equipped with an automatic shut-off function
- Do not use propane heaters inside the home or use the oven to heat the home
- Replace furnace filters regularly
- Keep clutter and other combustibles away from the water heater and furnace
- Remove lint from clothes dryer after each cycle and clean exhaust duct (flexible tube) annually
- Install a spark arrester on chimney and have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually

Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials
- Limit the amount of all chemicals stored in the home
- Store hazardous materials away from heat sources in containers with tight-fitting lids and correct identification labels
- Allow for ample ventilation when using flammable liquids and/or hazardous materials
- Store oily rags in an airtight metal container; oily rags placed in a pile can spontaneously ignite
- Dispose of household hazardous materials properly

Cooking Safety
- Never leave cooking unattended; set a timer as a reminder
- Cuff sleeves and turn pot handles inward when cooking to prevent burn injuries
- Do not store combustibles in oven or on top of stove
- Dispose of BBQ and fireplace ashes in metal container at least three (3) feet away from combustibles
- Slide a lid to extinguish a cooking fire (see below)

Smoking & Candles
- Never leave burning cigarettes or candles unattended
- Never smoke in bed
- Use ashtrays that have a center support feature
- Place candles in sturdy holders at least 12 inches away from combustibles (curtains, clothing, etc.)
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom and other areas where occupants may fall asleep
- Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children
HOME FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Fire Extinguishers
- Install multipurpose (ABC) extinguishers so they are visible and accessible (near kitchen or garage)
- Operate a fire extinguisher by using P.A.S.S. method:
  - PULL the pin – AIM at the base of the fire – SQUEEZE – SWEEP the extinguisher side-to-side
- Inspect extinguishers annually. Pin should be secure, pressure gauge reads green and rotate extinguisher annually to loosen powder
- Discard extinguishers properly

Develop & Practice a Home Escape Plan
- Know two (2) exits out of every room
- Crawl low under smoke to escape fire
- Identify a safe meeting place outside (tree, mailbox, etc.)
- Dial 911 from a neighbor’s phone or cellphone to report the fire
- Once out, STAY OUT!
- Practice your Home Escape Plan with every member of the household