



**A residential fire occurs every half hour in Ohio. How safe is your home from fire?  
Use this checklist to keep your family safe from the devastation of a residential fire.**

### **Matches, Lighters, Candles and Smoking Hazards**

- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.
- Make sure matches and smoking materials are extinguished before disposing.
- Use large, non-combustible ash trays.
- Never leave smoking material unattended.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Extinguish candles when you leave the room or area.
- Place candles on non-combustible surfaces or containers.
- Do not leave children unattended in areas with lit candles.

### **Electrical Hazards**

- Have qualified electricians install or extend your home wiring and verify circuit breakers and fuses are properly sized.
- Purchase only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) listed electrical devices and appliances.
- Use circuit breaker protected outlet strips.
- Do not place electrical cords under carpeting or run through doors or openings where they could become damaged from pinching or foot traffic.
- Replace frayed or damaged electrical cords.
- When using extension cords, ensure the rated capacity of the cord matches or is greater than the total capacity of all devices plugged into it.

### **Heating Hazards**

- Oil or gas heat equipment should be listed by the proper laboratories, such as UL or the American Gas Association.
- Have your heating system inspected and serviced before the heating season begins.
- Wood burning stoves should be properly installed according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Burn seasoned wood and store it safely away from heat sources.
- Ensure all vent connections and flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls are properly installed.
- Have your chimney cleaned and inspected at least once a year if you regularly use a fireplace or wood burner.
- All portable space heaters in your home should be UL listed.
- Portable space heaters should be placed well away from all combustible materials.
- Refill kerosene heaters outside when the heater is cool with the recommended fuel.
- Kerosene heaters use oxygen, so always provide adequate ventilation in the space where they are being used.

- Turn off all portable space heaters when you go to bed.
- Never use flammable or combustible liquids to start a fire in the fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Fireplaces should be equipped with a sturdy fire screen.
- Open the flue/damper before starting a fire in your fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Do not leave children unattended near fireplaces and space heaters.

### **Cooking Hazards**

- Never leave anything cooking on the stovetop unattended.
- Extinguish a grease fire in a pan by covering it with the lid, a large skillet or cookie sheet.  
*Never pour water on a grease fire.*
- Keep the kitchen stove, broiler and oven clean of grease.
- Avoid loose fitting clothing while cooking.
- Turn pot handles in when cooking to avoid the pan being knocked or pulled off the stove.

### **Housekeeping Hazards**

- Store combustibles at least three feet away from all heat sources.
- Keep flammable and combustible liquid containers tightly closed.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids for cleaning clothes, furnishings or floors.
- Clean the dryer lint filter after each load.

### **Yard and Garage Hazards**

- Keep your yard cleaned of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish.
- Store gasoline for power tools in clearly labeled, approved red metal safety cans.
- Store kerosene in approved, clearly labeled, approved blue and white containers.
- Store propane cylinders outside of the house or in a detached garage or structure.

### **Be Prepared Before A Fire**

- Install photoelectric smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside of every sleeping area. (This is a city ordinance.) We also suggest installing one in every bedroom.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms near sleeping areas.
- Mount a minimum sized 1A10BC fire extinguisher in the kitchen near the exit and know how to use it.
- Keep basement and garage doors closed.
- Have and practice an escape plan and know at least two ways out of each room in your home.
- Have a family meeting place in the front yard.
- Consider purchasing chain escape ladders for upper story bedrooms.
- Share your fire safety plan with babysitters and caregivers.

### **In Case Of Fire**

- Crawl low in smoke. Smoke rises and cleaner air is near the floor.
- Feel closed doors before opening them to ensure the fire isn't on the other side.
- Leave immediately. Don't stop for anything and once outside NEVER re-enter.
- Call the Fire Department (911) from a neighbor's house or cell phone. Stop, Drop and Roll to extinguish a fire on your clothes or hair.

