



TOWN OF HUDSON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



39 Ferry Street • Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • Tel: 603-886-6021 • Fax: 603-594-1164

HOME FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Resident's Name: _____

Date: _____

Resident's Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Home Fire Facts

- Fire kills more people in the United States annually than all natural disasters combined.
- Annually approximately 4000 civilians are killed and more than 28,000 are injured in fires.
- Eight out of ten fire deaths in the U.S. occur in the home.
- Every 79 seconds a home burns somewhere in the U.S.
- Home fires often happen at night when people are sleeping.
- In only 3 minutes a room can become engulfed in flames before anyone awakens.
- A fire doubles in size every 30 seconds.
- Those at highest risk are the very young and older adults who may have difficulty making a quick escape.

KITCHEN

Yes/No

_____ Appliances are clean and in good condition, i.e. electrical cords not damaged or frayed, burner elements clean and not damaged, switches clean and not damaged.

_____ All cleaners, matches, lighters, or other dangerous chemicals are stored out of the reach and sight of children.

_____ A current ABC fire extinguisher (for all types of fire) or BC fire extinguisher (for grease, flammable liquid and electrical fires) is mounted in the kitchen. Be familiar with how to use it before you have to use it.

_____ Appliances, i.e. toaster, blender, etc., unplugged when not in use and kept clean and away from the sink and stove.

Reminders:

- When cooking, turn pot handles in and away from other burners.
- When cooking, avoid wearing clothes with loose flowing sleeves.
- Wipe up grease, water and other spilled liquids or food to avoid slip hazards.
- When cooking, never leave food unattended. Always turn off oven and stove when not in use.

SMOKE ALARMS

- _____ A smoke alarm is properly mounted outside of each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- _____ Smoke alarms are less than ten years old.
- _____ Is there a battery back up in hardwire alarms or a battery operated smoke alarm nearby?
- _____ Every smoke alarm is tested monthly.
- _____ Every smoke alarm battery has been replaced in the last year. We recommend 10-year 9 volt lithium batteries.

Reminders:

- For the best level of protection, a smoke alarm should be installed in every bedroom.
- Consider installing a combination photo-electric/ionization smoke detector for best protection.

HOME SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

- _____ Control valve is open and valve is locked in open position or removed and stored close by?
- _____ Anything hanging from sprinkler heads or piping?
- _____ Any sprinkler heads painted over?

Reminders:

- If you do not already have a fire sprinkler system installed in your home, seriously consider installing one due to the fact that approximately 4,000 Americans die in home fires annually. The majority of victims being the elderly and the very young.
- By installing both a fully operational fire sprinkler system and having working smoke detectors, you can reduce your family's and your risk of dying in a home fire by 82% according to The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and National Fire Protection Association.

LIVING ROOM/BEDROOMS

- _____ Large, deep ashtrays are available for smokers in the home.
- _____ Fireplaces and wood stoves have metal screens or doors to contain sparks and cinders. Does your wood or pellet stove have a permit and has it been inspected by the fire department?
- _____ A metal container is used for removal and disposal of hot ashes.
- _____ Wood stove or fire place chimneys have been inspected and cleaned annually depending on use.
- _____ All portable heating appliances have at least three feet of clearance from combustibles such as furniture, curtains, and bedding.
- _____ Portable heaters are UL listed.
- _____ Extension cords are uncovered and free from damage and are not used as permanent wiring.
- _____ Electrical cords are clear of walkways and paths where someone could trip and fall over them.
- _____ Electrical outlets are not overloaded.
- _____ Stairs are free from clutter and tripping hazards.

Reminders:

- Never smoke in bed.
- Have a smoke detector in each bedroom and in the hallway outside of bedroom doors.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed.
- Keep doors and windows in good working condition including bedrooms.
- New gas fireplaces and wood stoves require a permit and an inspection.
- Never leave candles burning unattended.

GARAGE

- _____ All gasoline, other flammable liquids, and hazardous chemicals are stored in approved storage containers away from the home side of the garage and preferably in a shed.
- _____ Wood stove installed in garage (not allowed under NFPA-211)?
- _____ Furnace listed and installed to manufacturer's specifications for garages.
- _____ Oily rags kept in a closed, metal container.

Reminder:

- Separate and safely store pesticides, fertilizers, cleaning agents and building supplies on level and secure shelving to prevent their mixing.

UTILITY ROOM/BASEMENT

_____ Gas and oil hot water heaters and furnaces have three feet of clearance from any combustibles and have been permitted and inspected by the fire department.

_____ Gas and oil burners are maintained regularly.

_____ All flammable and combustible liquids, gases and poisonous chemicals have been removed.

_____ Basement bedrooms have approved second means of egress.

_____ Dryer lint trap is clean of lint.

Reminders:

- Keep flammable and combustible liquids away from heating appliances.
- Always store flammable and combustible liquids away from your house preferably in a shed.
- Dryer lint traps should be cleaned out after each load and vent pipe should be cleaned semi-annually.

BATHROOM

_____ Appliances such as hair dryers, radios, and electric shavers are kept away from water.

_____ Non-slip mats used in tub, shower and on floors.

_____ Water heater temperature set to a safe temperature of no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

_____ Electrical outlets are GFCI.

Reminders:

- To prevent electrical shock keep all electrical appliances such as blow dryers, curling irons and radios away from water and teach children to do the same.
- Placing non-skid mats and well-secured grab bars in bathtubs and showers will lower the risk of slips and falls.
- Clean up spilled water immediately to reduce risk of slipping or falling.

EXTERIOR

_____ Address numbers are at least 4" high, secured to the house, also located at the bottom of the driveway and clearly visible from the street.

_____ Firewood is stacked at least ten feet from the side of the house.

_____ All open flame cooking appliances such as charcoal and gas grills and barbecues are at least three feet from a one or two-family house and at least ten feet from multi-family homes such as apartments, townhouses and condominiums.

_____ Steps are free from clutter and tripping hazards.

Reminders:

- If your home is built in the wild lands, consider creating a fire safe zone around your home.
- If a fire hydrant is located in front of your home, please keep it clear to allow the fire department access should you or a neighbor's home suffer a fire.

GENERAL

_____ The family has a home escape plan and meeting place.

_____ The family has completed an exit drill in the last six months.

_____ There are 9-1-1 stickers attached to every phone.

_____ All matches and lighters are kept out of the reach and sight of children.

_____ A carbon monoxide detector is mounted near every sleeping area.

Reminders:

- Use night-lights for the paths most often traveled at night.
- Use light bulbs that are the appropriate wattage for their fixture.
- Secure throw rugs and runners so that they do not become trip hazards.
- Keep hallways, staircases and pathways free of obstructions.
- All family members should be familiar with how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches on fire.
- Remember to complete warranty registration cards when new appliances are purchased.

Seriously consider installing a home fire sprinkler system to keep your family and property safe from fire.

Teach your children what to do if there is a fire, such as tell a grown up if they see smoke or flames, crawl low along the floor, never hide under a bed or in a closet, get out of the building as soon as possible and call the fire department from a neighbor's house. Never go back into the building not even for their toys or pets.

Make your home safe for children by never leaving them on their own in a room where there is a fire risk. Keep matches and lighters where children cannot see or reach them. Place candles and tea lights where children and pets cannot touch them. Put child locks on cabinets containing harmful chemicals or anything that could be used to start a fire. Also, put plug guards into sockets so children cannot stick anything in them.

Notes:

Thank you for participating in the Hudson Fire Department's voluntary Home Fire and Life Safety Inspection Program. The goal of this program is to make your home safe from fire and injuries. If you are looking for fire safety information for your home or family, please call the Hudson Fire Prevention Division at 886-6021 or visit the following web sites:

www.homefiresprinkler.org

www.mysafe.com

www.firemarshals.org

www.nfpa.org

www.fireteamusa.com

www.usfa.fema.gov

www.nh.gov/safety

www.safetyape.com