

## **HOME HAZARD HUNT**



Do you believe that your home is a safe place to be? Statistics show that most fires, accidents, and injuries occur in the home.

An important step in family preparedness is the identification of hazards in your home. Once the hazards are identified, it doesn't take much time or effort to make your home a safer place to live.

**Getting Started:** Using the checklist below, involve the whole family, especially your children, in a home hazard hunt. Remember that anything that can move, break, fall, or burn is a potential hazard. Foresight, imagination, and common sense are the only tools you will need! After identifying what needs to be done, devise a plan to do it.

Kitchen	Smoking and Matches
Yes/No	Yes/No
Wear snug-fitting clothes when cooking Do not leave cooking food unattended	Store matches and lighters out of reach of children
Keep pan handles turned in while cooking Keep a pan lid nearby in case of fire Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles Keep cords from dangling Ensure outlets near the	Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays Never smoke when drowsy or in bed Dispose of ashes and cigarette butts in a metal can at least daily Check furniture for smoldering cigarettes every
kitchen sink are GFI (Ground Fault Interrupt) equipped Keep sharp knives out of reach of children	night, especially after parties  Electricity
Recp sharp knives out of reach of children	Yes/No
Outside Yes/No	Avoid the use of extension cords (If used, ensure the correct wattage rating)
Clear dry vegetation and rubbish from around the house	Plug only one heat producing device into an electrical outlet
Use barbecue grills away from buildings and vegetation	Ensure cords are not placed under rugs Verify circuits are not overloaded
Dispose of barbecue briquettes in a metal container	Replace damaged cords, plugs, sockets Use bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps and
Maintain a "greenbelt" around rural buildings	fixtures
Check with the fire department before burning debris or using a burn barrel	Check fuses/circuit breakers for the correct amperage ratings Do not override or bypass fuses or circuit
All Rooms	breakers
Yes/No  Ensure floor coverings (rugs, carpets) are properly secured to prevent tripping hazards	Clothes Washer and Dryer Yes/No Verify that appliances are properly grounded Ensure lint filter is clean and serviceable
Separate draw cords on blinds and drapes to reduce strangulation hazards for kids Ensure room exits are unobstructed	Check vent hose and vent line to ensue they are clean and provide unobstructed airflow

Garage/Attic/Shed	Fire Extinguisher
Yes/No	Yes/No
Use gasoline as a motor fuel only and never use or store it inside the home	Verify that an all purpose fire extinguisher (Class ABC) is maintained in an accessible location
Keep only a small quantity of gasoline, if necessary, in an approved container locked in the garage or shed	Ensure that all occupants know how to use it Are additional fire extinguishers kept in the
Keep flammable liquids such as paints and thinners in their original containers and store	kitchen, garage, basement, and sleeping area?
on or near the ground and away from sources of heat, sparks, or flame	Smoke Alarms Yes/No
Store used oily rags in sealed metal containers Never store combustibles such as newspapers and magazines in your attic	Installed properly on every level? Tested 1st Tuesday of each month? Battery replaced every year? (unless 10-year battery model)
Heating Equipment	•
Yes/No	Earthquake Hazards (All Rooms)
Ensure fireplace inserts and gas/wood stoves comply with local codes Clean and inspect chimney annually Dispose of ashes in metal container Keep clothes, furnishings, and electrical cords at least 12" from wall heaters and 36" from portable heaters  Service furnace annually Set water heater thermostat at 120 F Elevate new or replacement gas water heaters at least 18" above the floor	walls or windows and breaking  Locate beds away from windows and heavy wall- mounted objects  Secure Litchen and bethroom achinete with
Bathrooms Yes/No	Strap water heater to wall studs Use flexible connections on gas appliances
Store poisonous cleaning supplies and medicines in "child-proofed" cabinets	Check chimney for loose bricks and repair as needed
Replace glass bottles with plastic containers Ensure all outlets are GFI equipped	Check foundation for cracks and repair as needed Bolt home to foundation to prevent shifting during an earthquake
<u>Family Preparedness</u> Yes/No	Secure mirrors and pictures to the wall or hang them with heavy wire, looped through eye screws or tongue-in-groove hangers
Develop an escape plan and practice it regularly	
Ensure windows open easily enough for children to open unassisted, if need, for escape route	l
Designate a family meeting place outside Have an out-of-state contact for family check	Practice drills are a great way to help your family plan and remember what to do in case
after a disaster/emergency Store important papers and valuables in a fire proof safe or cabinet	of a disaster or emergency
Maintain proper insurance coverage for your home and its contents (earthquake, flood,	

renter's, fire)