



Home Fire Safety Inspection Checklist

Shenandoah County Department of Fire and Rescue
600 N. Main Street, Suite 109, Woodstock, VA 22664

540-459-6167

www.scfr.net

Exterior

- Make house number visible from street
- Trim trees away from the chimney
- Trim trees or brush away from outside electrical wires

Heating Equipment & Fireplaces

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from all flammable material
- Replace furnace filters 2 times a year
- Clean lint from behind the clothes dryer
- Install a spark screen in front of the fireplace
- Have chimney inspected and cleaned annually
- Install a spark arrester on chimney
- Dispose of ashes in metal containers

Electrical

- Avoid overloading electrical circuits
- Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage
- Do not tack cords to the wall or run them under rugs
- Maintain air space around electrical equipment
- Install additional outlets by a qualified electrician to avoid using extension cords
- If you must use extension cords, use only the kind that have built-in circuit breakers

Flammable Liquids & Hazardous Materials

- Limit the amount of chemicals stored
- Dispose of and recycle household hazardous materials properly
- Store hazardous materials away from heat sources
- Allow proper ventilation when using hazardous materials
- Put oily rags in metal containers with tight fitting lids, not in a pile where they can spontaneously ignite

Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Roll up sleeves and turn pot handles in When cooking to avoid burn injuries
- Never store combustibles in oven or on top of stove
- Move barbecue/grill away from your house

Smoking Materials & Candles

- Do not leave burning cigarettes or candles unattended
- Use ash trays with center supports to contain cigarettes
- Empty ashtrays into noncombustible containers
- Never smoke in bed
- Place candles in noncombustible, sturdy holders
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children

Smoke Detectors

- Install smoke detectors inside and outside every sleeping area and on every level
- Test smoke detectors once a month
- Hint: use a broom handle to reach and push test button**
- Replace smoke detector batteries every year
- Hint: use daylight savings time as a reminder**
- Replace smoke detector batteries every 10 years

Fire Extinguishers

- Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) extinguisher
- Teach your family how to use it
- (Use P.A.S.S.: Pull the pin, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep)**
- Inspect the extinguisher annually

Exit Drills in the Home (E.D.I.T.H.)

- Develop a home escape plan and practice it
- Know 2 ways out of your house
- Teach your family how to dial 911 and do fire drills