

High School & College Fire Safety

A Checklist for Fire Safety in Your New Home.



MINNESOTA STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Knowledge Test

Understanding fire safety is everyone's responsibility.

Using your tablet or phone scan the QR code to access the fire safety knowledge test.





Learning Objectives

1. You will be able to conduct a basic home fire safety survey prior to moving into a new dorm, apartment, or home.
2. You will be able to identify at least 3 common causes of residential fires.
3. You will be able to provide 3 examples of ways to reduce your risk of a fire or limit the damage caused by a fire.
4. You will have determined an estimated cost to replace your belonging if they were damaged or destroyed in a fire.



College Dorm / Apartment Fire Safety Checklist

What is a fire safety checklist?

Fire Safety Checklist for Homeowners and Renters

If there is a fire, you may have less than 3 minutes to get out of your home. Talk about what you should do to be safe. Make sure everyone in your home knows what to do if there is a fire.

☒ Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

Smoke Alarms

- ☐ Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- ☐ Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.



Test your alarm regularly.
Your smoke alarm is working if it makes a noise when you press the "test" button.

Cooking Safety

- ☐ The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- ☐ People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- ☐ Pot handles are always turned toward the back of the stove.

Escape Plan

- ☐ There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- ☐ Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- ☐ Everyone living in the house practices the escape plan 2 times a year.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- ☐ All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- ☐ People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- ☐ All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when you touch them. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

Candle Safety

- ☐ Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- ☐ Adults blow out all candles when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ☐ Candles are kept out of reach from children and pets.



Children are sometimes curious about fire.
If you have children in your home, lock up any items that can start a fire (matches, lighters, cigarettes, etc.) and make sure children cannot reach candles.

Learn more about fire prevention:
www.usfa.fema.gov

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA





How to Conduct a Safety Survey

Before moving into a new home, apartment, or dormitory, it is important to conduct a basic safety survey. This survey will help to familiarize you with the safety systems within your home while identifying any potential problems.



Smoke Alarms and CO Alarms

Activity: Spend 2 minutes speaking with your neighbor about what you know about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

00 : 02 : 00





Smoke Alarms

- Smoke Alarms
 - Test Monthly
 - New Batteries Yearly, (Recommend Sealed 10 year)
 - Replace alarms every 10 years
 - Every Level of the home, inside each sleeping area, within 10' of the entrance to each sleeping area



Question: If you live in an apartment building and burn a pizza, should you open the apartment door to try to get the smoke out of your unit?



Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Carbon Monoxide Alarms
 - What is Carbon Monoxide?
 - Replace CO alarms every 7 years
 - On every level of the home



Question: What should you do if you CO alarm continues to chirp even after the battery is replaced?



Escape Planning

2 Ways Out

- What is a proper egress window?
- Checking windows and doors for proper operation (Not painted / screwed shut)
- Cautions about basement apartments
- Door locks (can they be quickly released in a fire.)

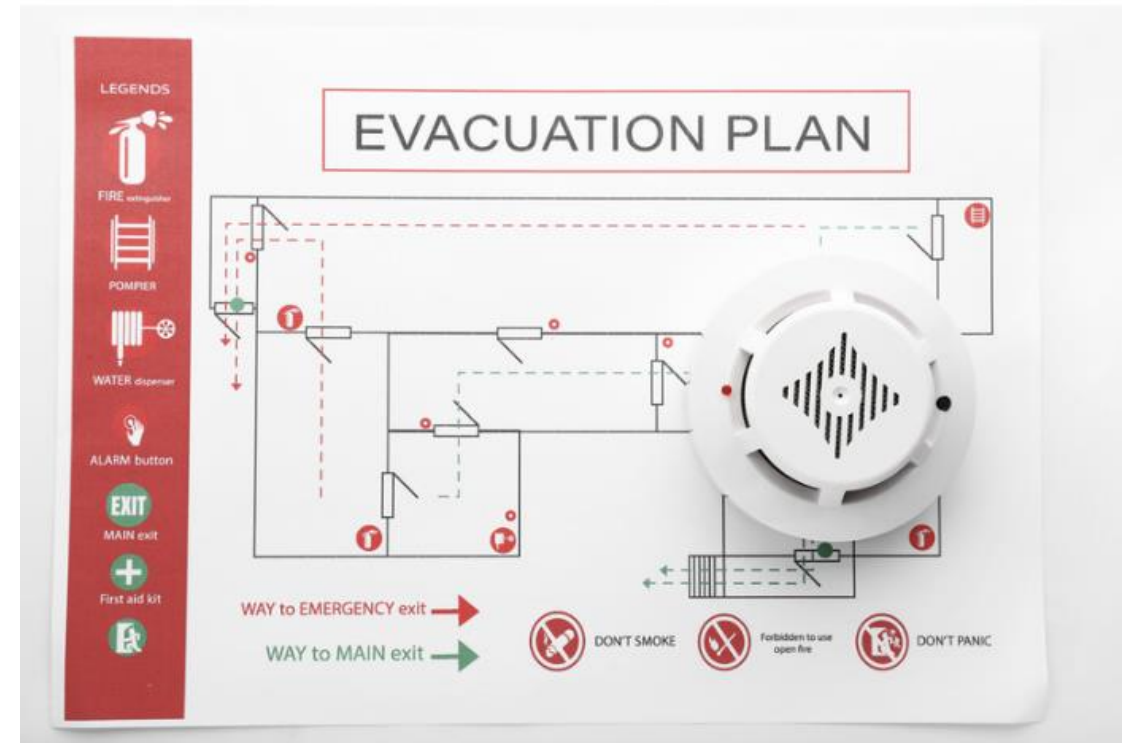




Creating and Practicing a Fire Escape Plan

How to create an escape plan (examples)

- Designate a safe meeting place
- Practice at least twice a year





Fire Sprinklers

Why you should look for a dorm, apartment or home with fire sprinklers

Three Truths and a Lie

Fire Sprinklers...

1. Use less water than a fire hose.
2. May reduce the cost of your insurance.
3. Will not increase the cost of your water bill.
4. Use the same water as that is plumbed to the sink, toilet and shower.

When Fire Sprinklers Activated....

1. Most fires are controlled by 1 sprinkler head.
2. All the sprinklers flow water.
3. They are not activated by the smoke alarms, but from the heat of the fire.
4. They allow occupants more time to evacuate.

Fire Sprinklers may....

1. Protect your stuff from being damaged by a fire.
2. Activate if you hang items on the sprinkler head
3. Alert the fire department when water is flowing in the system.
4. Be permanently shut off by your property manager.



Fire Sprinklers and the Movies

Hollywood loves to show myths about fire sprinklers, but most fires in sprinkled buildings are controlled by 1 sprinkler.

<https://youtu.be/1ag3mqSWqGw>





Sprinkler Side By Side Demo

<https://homefiresprinkler.org/wp-content/hype/QGWork/QGWork.hyperesources/%234%20How%20Sprinklers%20Work.mp4.mp4>



Causes of Fires





Smoking

- Smoking is still the leading cause of fatal fires
 - If you or friends smoke, what is the smoking policy?
 - If your home is nonsmoking, where can people smoke safely?
 - Is there a place for safe disposal of smoking materials?
- Vaping still causes fires
 - Mixing kit components can cause a failure
 - The batteries of vapes can have issues with charging, always use the supplied charger.



Cooking Fire Safety

Stay and look when you cook and follow the suggestion below!

- Know how to extinguish a cooking fire
- Keep items away from heat sources
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use
- Install Stovetop Fire Extinguishers

Grilling

- Check with your property manager before using cooking appliances on a balcony or deck.
- Never use a charcoal or propane cooking appliance inside.
- If a propane grill fails to ignite, shut the gas off, open the lid and allow it to air out for at least 5 minutes before attempting to relight.



Electrical Fire Safety

- Are the outlets in good condition?
 - What is a GFI Outlet?
 - What if it keeps tripping?
- Power strips vs Surge Protectors
- What is a Fuse Box?
 - What do you do if a breaker keeps tripping?
- Basic electrical safety
 - Extension cords and usage
 - Batteries
 - Hints of electrical problems



Other Fire Hazards

- Candles
- Incense
- Fireworks
- Bonfires / Rec Fires





Arson

Activity:

As a group of 2 – 4 people, spend 2 minutes talking about the following questions:

- What is arson?
- What are some examples of arson?
- What can happen if you intentionally cause a fire?



Arson

- What is Arson?

“Arson is the willful or malicious burning of property (such as a building) especially with criminal or fraudulent intent.”

- The Impacts
 - Loss of property
 - Injuries
 - Criminal Charges
 - Loss of life



Substances, Exhaustion and Stress

- Exhaustion / Stress

- Never cook, use candles, incense or other items that require fire when you are tired.
- Stress and exhaustion can cause people to engage in unsafe activities.



- Drugs and Alcohol

- Drugs and alcohol can lead us to make poor decisions that can lead to tragic consequences.
- Cooking under the influence alcohol or drugs can be just as dangerous as driving.





Renter Rights

- Carefully read your lease
- Report issues within 24 hours
- Ensure Fire and Life Safety Issues are corrected. If they landlord refuses to repair, contact the fire department for assistance.





Rental Insurance

- Minimal cost to protect your belongings
 - It is a good idea to keep an inventory of your belongings. A simple way to do this is to take a 360 photo from the center of each room.
- Cost of a fire activity





Post Learning

What did you learn?

Using your tablet or phone
scan the QR code to access
the post learning quiz.

