

A New Year For Fire Safety

Seasonal Fire Safety Series

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

It's a new year and time for a fresh start when it comes to fire safety. Resolve to spending just a few minutes completing the following checklist to make sure you start your new year off safely. Remember, any items you are not able to mark off of this checklist may put you at a higher risk from fire.

Smoke Alarms

A working smoke alarm cuts the risk of dying in a home fire by nearly half.

- _____ Smoke alarms are installed on a ceiling or high on the wall outside of the bedroom(s) on each level of your home.
- _____ Consider putting smoke alarms inside bedrooms too.
- _____ You make certain that your smoke alarm battery is changed once a year.
- _____ You test and clean your smoke alarm(s) each month.

Smoking

Fires started by smoking materials cause more fatalities than any other type of fire.

- _____ Matches, lighters, and smoking materials are kept out of the reach of small children.
- _____ No Smoking In Bed is a rule in your home.

Kitchen

Most cooking fires start when someone has left the kitchen while cooking something on the stove.

- _____ You keep your stove and oven clean of grease to prevent the occurrences of a fire.
- _____ In the event of a grease fire, you know that the best thing to do is to put a lid on it.
- _____ You always remain in the

- _____ You always remain in the kitchen while the stove or oven are on. Never leave cooking unattended.
- _____ You never use your oven to heat your home.

Heating

Remember to turn portable heaters off and to allow fires to go out before leaving home or going to sleep.

- _____ Your furniture and other belongings do not touch baseboard or portable heaters.
- _____ You have your chimney(s) and heating systems inspected, cleaned and repaired prior to the heating season.

Electrical

Each year, hundreds of people die and thousands more are injured in electrical accidents.

- _____ You only buy electrical appliances that have the seal of a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- _____ You use as few extension cords and plug adapters as possible.
- _____ Extension cords are in the open, not tacked to walls, under rugs, or through doorways.

Housekeeping

You can protect your household and your property by following fire safe practices.

- _____ You practice good housekeeping by keeping your home cleared of papers, mattresses, broken furniture, and other combustible odds and ends.
- _____ Paint, varnish, and other flammables are stored in sturdy metal containers and in a cool place.
- _____ Put ashes from the fireplace and barbecues in metal containers and only dispose of the contents when cold.

Escape Plan

Fire prevention and preparation can save lives!

- _____ You have a plan of escape showing two ways out of every room in your home, especially bedrooms.
- _____ You regularly practice your escape plan by holding fire drills in your home.
- _____ Every phone is labeled with a 911 sticker and your address.

**For More Information Contact:
Tacoma Fire Department
Public Education Office
253.591.5740**

www.tacomafiredepartment.org