



# TOWN OF MANSFIELD

## Mansfield Fire Department



### FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY HOME SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Everyone needs to do a little homework toward fire prevention and safety in our homes. Please take about 20 minutes to complete this home self-inspection checklist. The checklist can be used to help find the most common home fire and safety hazard. Parents or Caregivers, ask your children to help you complete this checklist.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION AND HOUSEKEEPING

- Yes  No  Are your house numbers visible from the street both Day and Night?
- Yes  No  Is the area around your home free of weeds and debris?
- Yes  No  Are appropriate ashtrays or other approved containers used for discarding smoking material?
- Yes  No  Are household chemicals kept in properly labeled containers and away from children?
- Yes  No  Is gasoline stored in an approved container in a detached shed away from all ignition sources?
- Yes  No  Are all matches and lighters stored up high and out of reach and sight of children?

#### SMOKE ALARMS, CO DETECTORS AND HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

- Yes  No  Do you have smoke alarms on every level, including the basement and outside each sleeping area?
- Yes  No  Have you considered installing smoke alarms in each bedroom?
- Yes  No  Do you have at least one CO (Carbon Monoxide) detector in the living/sleeping area of your home?
- Yes  No  Are your smoke alarms and CO detectors installed in accordance with the manufacturers instructions?
- Yes  No  Are your smoke alarms and CO detectors tested monthly?
- Yes  No  Can everyone hear the sound of the smoke alarm and know what it is?
- Yes  No  Are your smoke alarms or CO detectors less than 10 years old? Detectors and alarms that are older than ten years old should be replaced.
- Yes  No  Have you changed your smoke alarm and CO detector batteries this year? Changing clocks to and from Daylight Savings Time is a good way to remember this.
- Yes  No  Are all exits kept clear of toys, furniture and clutter?
- Yes  No  Do you have two exits, usually a window or another door, from every room in your home?
- Yes  No  Do the windows and doors work properly and can the person using the second exit open it?
- Yes  No  Do you have a family fire escape plan?
- Yes  No  Do you have a safe meeting place outside after you exit your home?
- Yes  No  Have you and your family reviewed and practiced your family fire escape plan within the last six months?
- Yes  No  Do you know the emergency number for the fire department is 911? To report a fire, 911 should be called from your neighbor's phone or a cell phone after you have escaped.

### **CANDLE SAFETY**

- Yes  No  Are candles extinguished when leaving the room or when going to bed?
- Yes  No  Are candles kept at least two feet away from any materials that can burn, including curtains, blinds, wallpaper, bulletin boards and clothing?
- Yes  No  Are candles placed in sturdy non-combustible holders large enough to collect dripping wax and that won't tip over easily?

### **COOKING SAFETY**

- Yes  No  Is a grown-up staying in the kitchen when cooking on the stove?
- Yes  No  Are curtains, towels, pot holders, boxes, paper and other things that can burn kept well away from the stove top and counter near the stove?
- Yes  No  Is the pan lid nearby to use in case a fire starts in the pan?
- Yes  No  Are pan handles turned inward so they can not be bumped?
- Yes  No  Are outdoor grills and barbecues at least 10 feet from a building and on a non-combustible surface?
- Yes  No  Is there a "Kid-Free" zone three feet around the stoves and grills when grown-ups are cooking?

### **ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

- Yes  No  Are extension cords being used properly? Cords should not be used to replace permanent wiring, covered with rugs or carpets, or across doorways.
- Yes  No  Are electrical appliances in good repair? Replace all electrical cords that are frayed or worn.
- Yes  No  Are electrical lights clear of combustible materials?
- Yes  No  Are electric light bulbs the proper wattage for the fixtures they are installed in?
- Yes  No  Are UL approved power strips being used in electrical circuits with multiple appliances?

### **HEATING SAFETY**

- Yes  No  Are portable space heaters turned off when adults leave the room for a long time or when they go to bed?
- Yes  No  If portable space heaters are used, are they kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn like people, pets, papers, towels and furniture?
- Yes  No  Are combustibles stored at least three feet from furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves and gas stoves?
- Yes  No  If you have a fireplace, does it have a sturdy screen in front of it to catch sparks?
- Yes  No  Do you use a covered metal container for wood stove and fireplace ashes? Do you let ashes cool for 72 hours prior to disposing of them?
- Yes  No  Has your fireplace and chimney been inspected and cleaned this year?
- Yes  No  Has your furnace been checked by a furnace service company this year?
- Yes  No  Are propane tanks and other fuels stored outside your home?
- Yes  No  Are clip on heating lamps secured and not hanging over combustible materials when being used?

Any areas that are checked NO could be a potential fire or safety hazard and should be corrected as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact the Mansfield Fire Department at 429-3328 for more information about fire prevention and safety.

Additional information can be found at: [http://www.mansfieldct.org/town/departments/public\\_safety/fire\\_marshall](http://www.mansfieldct.org/town/departments/public_safety/fire_marshall)