



Office of the Fire Marshal

Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services Division
5370 Public Safety Place
Frederick, MD 21704
301-600-1479



HOME FIRE SAFETY SELF-SURVEY

General

- Yes** **No** Home has smoke alarms on every level.
- Yes** **No** Home has a smoke alarm in every bedroom.
- Yes** **No** Smoke alarms are located outside each separate sleeping area.
- Yes** **No** Smoke alarms are located at least 10 feet from a stationary or fixed cooking appliance.

- Yes** **No** For larger homes (where the interior floor area on a given level is greater than 1,000 square feet), there is an average of at least 1 smoke alarm for every 500 square feet. [See NFPA 72-(2013) 29.5.1.3 (.1)]

- Yes** **No** Smoke alarms are interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound. (Best protection)
- Yes** **No** Home has ionization smoke alarms.
- Yes** **No** Home has photoelectric smoke alarms.
- Yes** **No** Home has combination (photoelectric and ionization) smoke alarms.
- Yes** **No** All smoke alarms are working.
- Yes** **No** Family has a home fire escape plan.
- Yes** **No** Family practices the home fire escape plan at least twice a year.
- Yes** **No** The home has occupant(s) that require assistance to escape. Occupants discuss escape planning and occupant requirements in case of a fire or emergency escape.

- Yes** **No** House number is visible from the street.
- Yes** **No** Windows used for escape open easily — not blocked by furniture, security bars or nailed/painted shut.

- Yes** **No** Security bars, if present, have a quick release-device.
- Yes** **No** Home has a home fire sprinkler system. (Best protection)
- Yes** **No** Home has a carbon monoxide alarm outside each separate sleeping area.
- Yes** **No** Home has a carbon monoxide alarm on every level.
- Yes** **No** Carbon monoxide alarms are working.

Throughout the Home

- Yes** **No** Smokers smoke outside the home.
- Yes** **No** Large ashtrays are provided outside for smokers, do not use plastic containers or potting soil.
- Yes** **No** Matches and lighters are stored in a secure cabinet out of a child's reach.
- Yes** **No** Lit candles are in approved holders on a non-combustible base and are never left unattended.
- Yes** **No** Flammable liquids, if stored in the home, are limited in quantity an approved containers.
- Yes** **No** The home is not cluttered with clothes, magazines, newspapers and other items that can burn and prevent you from escaping or firefighters from entering.

Kitchen

- Yes** **No** Things that can burn are removed from and not stored on or near the stovetop.
- Yes** **No** Small appliances are unplugged when not in use.
- Yes** **No** Adult stays in the kitchen when stovetop is in use.

Living/Family Room

- Yes** **No** Fireplace has proper screen and hearth.
- Yes** **No** Things that can burn are at least 3 feet from space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces.

Bedrooms

- Yes** **No** All bedrooms have two ways out — window and a door.

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Basement

- Yes** **No** Workshop area is clean of things that can burn.
- Yes** **No** Hot water heater is set at no higher than 120° Fahrenheit.
- Yes** **No** Things that can burn are at least 3 feet from the furnace, water heater and other mechanical equip.
- Yes** **No** Furnace is inspected and cleaned annually.
- Yes** **No** Chimney is inspected annually and cleaned as needed.
- Yes** **No** Clothes dryer lint filter and vent pipe are clean.

Garage

- Yes** **No** There is a solid door between garage and residence.
- Yes** **No** Gas powered equipment is stored in an outside shed or garage, separate from the home.
- Yes** **No** Gasoline is stored in an approved safety container in an outside shed or garage, separate from the home.

Outside the Home

- Yes** **No** Outside electrical receptacles are GFCI and they are in good working condition.
- Yes** **No** There is no rubbish, trash, brush or tree trimmings accumulation on the property.
- Yes** **No** Barbecue grill is only used outdoors away from structures.
- Yes** **No** Swimming pool or hot tub is enclosed by a four-sided fence and locked gate. Filter, heater or hot tub is properly grounded.

Electrical

- Yes** **No** AFCIs (arc-fault circuit interrupters) are installed throughout the home and they are working properly (new home construction only).
- Yes** **No** Kitchen and bathrooms have GFCI outlets on countertop surfaces within 6 feet of running water outlets and they are working properly.
- Yes** **No** All receptacle and switch faceplates are installed and in good condition.
- Yes** **No** Receptacles have been tested and are in good working condition — no evidence of arcing or overheating.
- Yes** **No** Switches are in good condition — no evidence of arcing or overheating.
- Yes** **No** Lighting fixture canopies are fastened in place and fixture is in good condition.
- Yes** **No** Bulbs in light fixtures are the correct wattage for the lighting fixture.
- Yes** **No** Flexible cords and cables are not used as: fixed wiring, run through holes in walls, ceiling or floor, run through doorways or windows or under carpets or attached to building surfaces.
- Yes** **No** If there are young children in the home, the home has tamper-resistant outlets.
- Yes** **No** Panel board and distribution equipment is accessible for inspection and in good condition — no evidence of overheating, corrosion or other damage, and clear of combustibles.
- Yes** **No** Service entrance raceways or cables are fastened in place, grounded, readily accessible and in good condition.

Stair Safety **Trips and falls on stairs are a leading cause of home injuries.**

- Yes** **No** Stair is provided with a sturdy handrail(s).
- Yes** **No** Stair can be illuminated for night time use.
- Yes** **No** Stair tread depth and riser height are uniform.
- Yes** **No** Stair landing nosing projections are consistent with other nosings on the stair flight. (You can determine this by doing a “crouch and sight” test. Crouch down at the top landing of the stair. All the nosings from the landing to the bottom step should line up.)

The items checked “No” may put you and your family at risk. You are urged to correct these at once for your own safety. This inspection does not identify future conditions such as failure of components, wiring or human behavior which could result in a fire. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at: 301-600- 1479 or by email at: firemarshal@frederickcountymd.gov