

# Resident Safety Self-inspection Checklist

OK	NO	General
		Address and unit number visible for emergency responders.
		Only non-combustible candle holders used.
		Candles always extinguished before leaving the room, never unattended.
		Electric generators never used inside the garage, only outdoors (CO2 poisoning).
		Lighters and matches kept out of reach of children.
		Inspect around the outside of the home for evidence of juvenile fire play.
		Fireworks only used in the direct control and supervision of adults.
		Bathroom fan not slowing down (seizing) due to dust build-up.
		No holes in walls or ceilings that could allow fire smoke to spread.
		Leftover fireworks not accessible to children. Spent fireworks placed in water.

OK	NO	Heating
		No home-heating with the kitchen stove or oven, especially gas appliances.
		Propane heaters never used inside (CO poisoning).
		Portable heaters equipped with tip-over switches or thermal cutoff switches.
		Never penetrate a ceiling or floor that is equipped with built-in radiant heat.
		Combustible materials not stored on or near heaters or equipment.
		Newspaper, kindling and wood not stored near the fire place or wood stove.
		Protective screen in place to stop embers from entering the room.
		Furniture kept a minimum of 18 inches from fire places, wood stoves and heaters.

OK	NO	Smoking
		No smoking in bed or while on medications that might make you drowsy.
		Use only on-combustible containers for cigarettes.
		Fully extinguish in water prior to putting cigarettes in regular trash.
		Never throw a cigarette on the ground even if you think it is out.
		Never smoke near propane, natural gas or gasoline.
		Kids not allowed to smoke at home (they often lack the maturity to be responsible and dispose of them in a safe manner).

OK	NO	Lighting
		Light bulbs not a higher wattage than recommended for the fixture.
		Compact florescent bulbs, if used outside are listed for outside use.
		Halogen light fixtures have protective wire covers in place.
		Light fixtures cannot fall over in the house or garage.
		Candle lighting using only non-tip-over non-combustible holders.

**OK NO Life Safety**

	Never hang anything from sprinkler heads.
	Smoke detector tested with real smoke (blow out a candle) twice per year.
	Smoke detector not more than 10 years old (not reliable after 10 years).
	Carbon monoxide detector in place and working.
	Address posted on or near the telephone.
	All stairs exit doors and pathways are kept clear.
	All family members know the emergency exit plan including a meeting place.
	All family members practice a fire drill in the home at least twice per year.
	All children know how & when to call 911.
	If applicable, an escape rope ladder is installed at 2 <sup>nd</sup> story windows.
	Apartment sprinkler & fire alarm systems are maintained annually by the owner.
	A portable fire extinguisher is accessible from the kitchen and garage.

**OK NO Outdoor Fireplaces and Barbeques**

	Used charcoal not stored near the house even if you're sure it is out.
	Barbeques kept far enough from the house that the walls do not get heated.
	Ensure barbeques are turned off after use.
	Fire pits kept not greater than 3 feet wide and flames not higher than 2 feet.
	Decks protected from the heat of portable fire pits.
	Only fire wood in a fire pit. No trash or yard debris.
	Fire pits have a screen cover to hold back embers.

**OK NO Electrical**

	Limit extension cord use to temporary only.
	Limit extension cord use to one appliance per cord (to prevent over heating)
	Extension cords not passing through doorways, in the path of foot traffic or covered with insulating materials like rugs or carpeting.
	Electrical appliances, heaters & equipment checked for recall status.
	Only use a professional electrician doing electrical work under a city permit.
	No damaged or hot-to-the-touch extension cords.
	No oversized fuses in the fuse box.
	No unexplained fading in & out of power or "popping" sounds of an electrical short.
	No hot electrical wall switches or outlets.
	No problems with frequent circuit breaker tripping.
	Branches kept clear of overhead power lines.

OK NO Cooking

	Keep combustibles away from the stove top.
	Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Put a lid on it.
	Close the oven door and turn of the power for oven fires and call 911.
	Never leave cooking unattended.
	Double check the stove burners after dinner to ensure they are off.
	Outdoor deep frying of turkeys only on a driveway or concrete patio. Never on a combustible surface.
	Turn pot handles so they are not reachable by small children.
	Unplug portable cooking equipment when not in use.

Courtesy of the Vancouver Fire Marshal – Vancouver Fire Department

