Fire Safety Tips

Home Address

- Posted with a minimum of four-inch numbers
- Address is on a contrasting background
- Address is visible from the street

Doors & Windows

- Exit doors with a window have a double cylinder key locking device
- Key is **NOT** left on the interior side of the locking device when the person is at home or asleep
- Bars and other security devices placed upon windows that are not operable from the inside
- Windows operational where they could be used for emergency egress
- Homes with windows more than 44" off the floor, have steps or a window seat provided so that a small child could get out of the window
- Escape ladders provided in sleeping rooms on the second floor
- Newer homes with an emergency egress window in the basement have ladder provided in the window well to allow persons to escape to grade level
- Door between the garage and the residence portion of the house a 1-5/8" solid core door
- Garage door has a self-closer
- Make sure the door closes and latch
- Attic covers are in place

Stairways

- Handrails installed and secure on all stairwells
- Storage placed under the stairways and if so, the back of the stairway protected with sheetrock

Extinguishers

- Fire extinguishers are provided in the garage
- Fire extinguishers are provided in the kitchen
- Fire extinguishers are provided in the basement
- Fire extinguishers are fully charged
- Fire extinguishers are hung up in an accessible location

Smoke Detectors

- Smoke detectors are installed on each level
- Smoke detectors are installed in sleeping rooms of the home
- Smoke detectors are working
- Batteries have been changed within the last year (Suggest twice a year)
- 120-volt detectors have been checked on a monthly basis with the test button
- Battery operated detectors have been checked on a monthly basis with the test button
- NFPA 1 and the IFC requires a smoke detector be placed within each sleeping room along with a smoke detector on each level. All detectors are interconnected so that if one activates, all detectors will activate. Are all units still in place, operate, and have the batteries been changed each year (at a minimum)?

Wiring/Appliances

- Outlet and switch-plate covers are in place
- Junction boxes are covered with an approved cover-plate
- Extension cords are **NOT** attached to the walls, ceilings or over doorways or used because the house doesn't have receptacles at the locations where power is needed
- Extension cords are **NOT** being used because the house doesn't have receptacles at the locations where power is needed
- Multiple power adapters are **NOT** in use
- Appliance cords and plugs are in good condition without nicks or splices
- Appliance cords are **NOT** running under rugs, carpeting, and furniture
- ROMEX wiring is **NOT** running outside of walls
- Splices in power cords are **NOT** to be used for appliances or outside of a junction box on house wiring
- Outlets are in good condition without broken pieces
- Switches are operating properly
- Light covers are in place on light fixtures in closets
- Light covers are in place on the exterior of the building
- Light bulbs are **NOT** larger than the rating on the light fixture
- Microwave oven is on a separate circuit
- House is **NOT** wired with aluminum wiring
- Circuit directory is inside the circuit panel
- Circuit directory marked and labeled
- Breakers appear to be in good working condition
- 36" clear space around the circuit panel

Storage

- Storage areas are neat and storage away from such units as the furnace and water heater
- Combustible liquids such as gasoline, Coleman fuel, kerosene, and propane stored in properly marked containers
- Combustibles away from potential ignition sources such as furnaces, water heaters and appliances that may produce heat or a spark
- Combustibles not stored in basements, bedrooms, etc.

- Combustible liquids such as stains or paints that are used within the home properly stored
- Rags used are placed in a metal container with a sealed lid

Clothes Dryer/Water Heater

- Clothes dryer is vented properly
- Vent is attached to the dryer
- Area behind the dryer is clean
- Dryer vent hose, piping, and inside lint trap be cleaned. The unit needs to be unplugged when cleaning the vent pipe
- Have the water heater checked by a reputable service company within the last year
- Water heater has the guard in place for the pilot light
- Exhaust vent piping from the water heater to the vent through the roof of the house and is in good condition
- Draft diverter (on the top of the water heater) and the exhaust piping attached and appear to be in good condition
- Gas line to the water heater is copper pipe or black iron pipe
- Approved epoxy-coated flex lines and brass lines with flanges, not soldered fittings are permissible. Rigged pipe is also approved.
- Storage is kept a minimum of 36" from the water heater

Furnace

- Forced air furnace or boiler unit has been checked by a reputable service company
- within the last year
- Furnace motor is clean and free of dust and lint
- Furnace filter is clean
- Furnace filter changed frequently (recommend once a month during cold season)
- Vent piping from the top of the furnace to the vent through the roof of the house appear to be in good condition
- Gas line to the furnace is copper pipe or black iron pipe
- Approved epoxy-coated flex lines and brass lines with flanges, not soldered fittings are permissible. Rigged pipe is also approved.
- Covers to the furnace is on
- Storage is kept a minimum of 36" from the furnace

Fireplace/Wood-Burning Stoves

- Does your house have a fireplace or wood-burning stove?
- Make sure it has been cleaned
- Have it checked by a reputable cleaning company
- Fireplace or wood-burning stove is cleaned, and a metal can with a lid is on site for the disposal of ashes
- Fireplace ashes can remain hot up to 72 hours or longer after a fire is in a fireplace.

Miscellaneous

- Motors to appliances such as refrigerators or clothes dryers been cleaned
- Reduce dust or dirt that may overheat the motors
- 911 stickers are attached to the telephones
- Recommend to the homeowner that their insurance company check to assure that the Insurance is within present values.
- Recommend that the homeowner take an inventory of the furnishings within the home.
- Take pictures and videotape each room and keep all purchase receipts in a safety deposit or in another place other than the home to assist the homeowner in the event of loss from fire or burglary