There are simple steps you can take to help keep your loved ones safe in and around the home.

Plano Fire Department
Public Education Office
972-941-7421
www.planofire.org

# Home Safety Checklist

The Plano Fire Department offers the following home safety checklist as a guide to reduce the risk of fire and unintentional injuries.

### ☐ Smoke Alarms

The majority of home fire deaths happen at night, most often from smoke and poisonous gases, not the fire itself. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas. For extra protection, consider installing a smoke alarm in every bedroom. Be sure to test batteries at least once a month and never remove the batteries from your smoke alarm except to replace them.

### ☐ Fire Extinguishers

A multipurpose dry chemical Class ABC fire extinguisher is the best choice for general home use. Mount the extinguisher on a bracket on the wall near an exit so that anyone using it can escape from the room if a fire spreads. Periodically check the gauge to make sure it has pressure. All adult occupants of the home must know when and how to use the extinguisher properly. Remember the acronym P.A.S.S.

Pull the pin that unlocks the operating pin.

Aim low. Point the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever above the handle to discharge the extinguishing agent.

Sweep the nozzle or hose from side to side. Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep back and forth until the flames appear to be out.

### ☐ Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide gas is poisonous, but you can't see, smell, or taste it. Check all fuel-burning appliances to be sure they work properly: furnace, water heater, stove, oven, fireplace, wood stove, and space heater. Put a carbon monoxide alarm near where people sleep. Be sure your alarm has the Underwriters Laboratories (UL 2034) label.

### ☐ Medicines and Household Cleaners

Make sure all medications, caustic cleaning products (example: drain openers, toilet and oven cleaners, rust removers, etc.), automotive fluids (example: windshield washing solution and antifreeze), pesticides, fertilizer and other household chemicals are in their original containers and in a locked cabinet. Buy medicines and household products in child-resistant packaging. Close caps tightly after using medicines and household products. Lock medicines and household products up high so children can't see or reach them.

### ☐ Poison Centers

Every Poison Control Center in the country can be reached by calling the American Association of Poison Control Centers nationwide hotline, 1-800-222-1222. Post this number by every phone in your home. Experts will answer your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### ☐ Kitchen and Cooking Safety

Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven. Always have a lid nearby to slide over a pan in case of fire. Have an adult stay in the kitchen when children are cooking. Keep your stovetop clean; no grease, no spills, no clutter. When you cook, turn all pot and pan handles in toward the back of the stove.

### ☐ Candle Safety

Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Try not to burn candles in the bedroom but if you do, keep them away from bedding, curtains, clothing, or anything that can burn. Use candle holders that are sturdy and are made from a material that can't burn. Be sure the candle holder is large enough to collect dripping wax. Never leave a child or a pet unattended in a room with a burning candle. Always keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn.

# Have a home fire escape plan!

Make a home fire escape plan and practice your plan at least twice a year so everyone knows what to do in a fire emergency.

**Step 1:** Get your family together and draw a floor plan of your home marking all windows and doors.

**Step 2:** Show two ways out of each room in case your main route is blocked by smoke or flames. Make sure windows can be opened easily.

**Step 3:** Agree on an outside meeting place where every family member will wait for the fire department. Mark this on your plan.

**Step 4:** Install smoke alarms in or near every sleeping area and on each level of your home. Show on your plan where they are.

**Step 5:** Practice your plan at least twice a year.

**Step 6:** Once out, stay out! Don't go back inside for any reason.

For more information on fire and life safety, please contact the
Plano Fire Department's Public Education Office at 972-941-7421 or at
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Visit us at www.planofire.org