



# Fire Preparedness Checkli

Once a fire strikes, it's too late to make emergency preparations. Use this guide as a starting point so you and your family are prepared for a fire.

## Before a Fire

Take protective measures to reduce the risk of personal injury and property damage before a fire.

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your residence
- Test and clean smoke alarms once a month
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year
- Review escape routes with your family, and practice escaping from each room
- Teach family members to stay low to the floor when escaping a fire
- Clean out storage areas in your home
- Never use gasoline, naphtha or other flammable liquids indoors
- Never smoke near flammable liquids
- Clean fireplace chimneys and remove branches above chimney openings
- Keep open flames and heating units away from walls, furniture, draperies and flammable items
- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets
- Install A-B-C-type fire extinguishers in your home and teach family members how to use them
- Ask your local fire department to inspect your home for fire safety and prevention

## During a Fire

Evacuate your home as quickly as possible. Do not endanger yourself by attempting to take possessions.

- Check closed door for heat before opening them
- If the door is hot, escape through a different exit or through a window
- If the door is cool, open it slowly to ensure it is a viable escape route
- Crawl low under any smoke to your exit - heavy smoke and poisonous gasses collect first along the floor
- Close doors behind you to delay the spread of fire
- If your clothes catch on fire, stop, drop and roll until the fire is extinguished
- To prevent smoke inhalation, wet a towel or T-shirt, cover your nose and mouth, and breathe through it while escaping
- Stay out once you have escaped. Do not re-enter.
- Call 9-1-1

## After a Fire

Take a head count to determine if everyone has escaped, and if anyone is badly injured.

- Seek medical attention immediately
- Cool and cover burns to reduce the chance of further injury or infection
- Do not attempt to open safes or strong boxes - they can hold intense heat for several hours
- If you are a tenant, contact the landlord

## Financial/Important Family Documents

Keep copies of records in a waterproof, portable container (or place in a secure location such as a safety deposit box).

- |                                                          |                                                   |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Cards           | <input type="checkbox"/> Current Photos of Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts and Agreements    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's Licenses and Passports | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Contact List   | <input type="checkbox"/> Stocks and Bonds            |
|                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Immunization Records     | <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory of Valuable Items |

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- Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates
- Will

- Bank and Credit Card Account Numbers
- Insurance Policies

- Household Goods (Include Appraisals and/or Video)

**First Aid Kit**

Assemble a first aid kit for your home and your car. Keep a 3-7 day supply of vital medication:

- |                                                                |                                                                   |                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription Drugs and Pain Relievers | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors and Tweezers                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antacid                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sterile Adhesive Bandages and Gauze Pads | <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Adhesive Tape                            | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Manual                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic, Sterile Needles           | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Pins (all sizes)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Heat Resistant First Aid Kit |

**Other Recommendations for Fire Preparedness**

- Designate an emergency meeting place in case your family is separated.
- Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care.

**Set up an emergency and disaster relief savings account and a Home Equity Line of Credit with Washington Mutual.**

For more information on how to protect your family and home in the event of an emergency, log on to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency.



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