

## **Home Fire Safety Checklist**

Most fatal fires start in the home; however, you can help protect your family and home by taking a few simple steps. Walk through your home with "fire-safe eyes" using this checklist:

\_\_\_ In case of fire, the most important thing to do is "get out and stay out!" Call 911 from a neighbor's house.

\_\_\_ Have smoke detectors in **every** bedroom and in the hallway areas outside each bedroom.

\_\_\_ Check smoke detectors monthly by pushing the test button.

\_\_\_ Replace smoke detector batteries if you have not done so in the past year.

\_\_\_ Develop and **practice** a home fire escape plan.

\_\_\_ Maintain a minimum 3-foot clearance around heat producing appliances or anything with a pilot light, such as water heaters and furnaces.

\_\_\_ Have a minimum 5-lb. dry chemical fire extinguisher with a rating of at least 2A-10BC.

\_\_\_ Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, paint thinner, oil-based paints and propane tanks outside your home in a shed or detached garage. **Never** store flammable liquids or propane containers of any kind in the same room, garage or closet with a furnace or water heater.

\_\_\_ Check all plugs and electrical cords to lamps, appliances and computers and make sure they are not worn or damaged. If cords are even slightly damaged, have a qualified repairperson replace the cord or plug. **Never** run cords beneath carpets or pads.

\_\_\_ Carefully check electric blankets for wear and replace them every 5 years. **Consider not using them at all.**

\_\_\_ Keep all cooking appliances such as stoves, ovens and microwaves clean and free of grease accumulations.

\_\_\_ If you ever use your fireplace, have it professionally checked and cleaned annually.

\_\_\_ Keep your roof clear of any accumulations of leaves or pine needles. Keep a 30-foot area around your home free of dry, flammable vegetation.

\_\_\_ Keep a screen or spark arresting device on your chimney.

\_\_\_ Use outdoor cooking grills with caution. **Never** use gasoline to start the fire and don't add charcoal lighter once the fire has started.