

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S SCIENCE CHECKLIST

Provided by West Pierce Fire & Rescue

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

Kids: Ask a grown-up to help with this at home.

By taking the time to do a fire safety inspection and correcting any problems you discover, you'll reduce your family's risk of being harmed in a home fire. Take about 20 minutes to inspect your home. As you go from room to room, check off answers to the questions listed below. Give yourself a point for each question that receives a "yes" answer. When you're done, add up the points to find out your score. Then take steps today to improve those areas that need it.

HUNT FOR HOME HAZARDS

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Does a grown-up always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are cooking areas free of materials that could catch fire?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are pot handles turned toward the back of the stove?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Is there a "kid-free" zone of 3 feet around the stove when grown-ups are cooking?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are portable space heaters always turned off when grown-ups leave the room or go to bed?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Has your family's heating equipment (chimneys, fireplaces, woodstoves or furnaces) been inspected by a professional this year?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are candles always blown out when grown-ups leave the room or go to bed?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are candles in candleholders that can't tip over easily and are big enough to catch dripping wax safely?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are matches and lighters kept in a locked cabinet, out of children's sight and reach.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are electrical cords in good condition, without cracks or frayed areas?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are flammable liquids like gasoline, kerosene, or propane stored in safe containers. Are they stored outside the home in a properly ventilated shed or garage?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No If there are smokers in your home, do they douse all butts and ashes with water before throwing them away?



SOUND THE ALARM, INSTALLING AND TESTING SMOKE ALARMS

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Does your home have a working smoke alarm on every floor including the basement and outside every sleeping area?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are the batteries working in every smoke alarm? (Have a grown-up press the "test" button to find out.)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have any smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old? If so, replace them.
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Does everyone in your home know the sound of the smoke alarm and know exactly what to do if he or she hears it?

DO THE DRILL: PRACTICING HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANS

- ☐ Yes ☐ No Does your family have a home fire escape plan that includes two exits (usually a door and a window) out of each room?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Are exits in your home kept free of toys, furniture and clutter?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No If there are infants or other family members with limited mobility, has someone been assigned to assist them in the event of a fire?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Does your family practice the escape plan twice a year? (If not, practice it tonight!)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Has your family picked a safe place to meet outside after you exit the home?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Does everyone in your family know the fire department's emergency number to call once you're safely outside?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No Is your house's street number clearly visible from the street?

IS YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE?

If you answered "yes" to all of the checklist questions above, congratulations! You and your family are doing a great job.

If you answered "yes" to 20 or more questions, you're on your way. Make sure to correct any problems.

If you answered "yes" to 15 or more questions, you've got some work to do! Work together to correct the problems, then take the test again.

If you answered "yes" to fewer than 15 questions, it's definitely time to make some changes. Make sure your family takes the steps needed to turn every "no" into a "yes". Remember, passing this test could save your life in the event of a home fire.