



# YOUR HOME CAN SURVIVE WITH THESE INDOOR TIPS

## **Heating and Cooking**

- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen.
- Maintain electric and gas stoves in good operating condition.
- Have shutoff valves to gas appliances easy to access.
- Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stove-top grease fires.
- Move the handles of pots and pans containing hot liquids away from the front of the stove.
- Clean stove, oven and broiler of grease after use.
- Keep kitchen exhaust fan clean of grease.
- Place flammable curtains and towels away from burners on the stove.
- Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Don't use kerosene or other flammable liquids to start a fire in the fireplace or furnace.
- Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights.

## **Fireplaces**

- Install a screen on your fireplace.
- Store the ashes from your fireplace (and barbecue) in a noncombustible container and dispose of only when cold.
- Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year.

## **Smoke Detectors**

- Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas and on every level.
- If you sleep with the door closed install a smoke detector in the bedroom.
- Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year when clocks are changed in the spring and fall.

## **Electrical**

- Make sure that electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads.
- Install child safety plugs (caps) on electrical outlets.
- Replace electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed.
- Turn off electric blankets and other electric appliances when not in use.
- Do not smoke in bed.
- Disconnect hot appliances such as curling irons and electric irons when done; store in a safe location until cool.
- Keep flammable items, such as towels, away from outlets and heaters.

## **Garage**

- Mount a fire extinguisher in the garage.
- Have tools such as a shovel, hoe, rake, and bucket available for use in a wildland fire emergency.
- Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage.
- Disconnect electrical tools and appliances when not in use.
- Allow hot tools such as glue guns and smoldering irons to cool before storing.

## **Storage of Flammable Material and Liquids**

- Store all combustibles away from ignition sources, such as water heaters.
- Clear basement, closets, and attic from rubbish, oily rags, flammable liquids, large stacks of paper, etc., and storage kept in orderly fashion.
- Dispose of oily rags in metal containers.
- Store paint, varnish, or other flammable liquids in a metal cabinet with lids on tight.
- Do not use gasoline, benzene, or other flammable liquids for cleaning clothes, furnishings or floors.

## **Disaster Preparedness**

- Store at least a three-day supply of food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking.
- Store at least a three-day supply of drinking water.
- Store a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns, and batteries.
- Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives.
- Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency; if possible, store these valuables together to save time later.
- Consider a portable generator to supply power to lights and cooking appliances.
- Have a contingency plan to enable family members to contact each other.
- Make sure that all family members are ready to protect themselves with Stop, Drop and Roll.

## **Holiday Hazards**

- Keep Christmas tree in water and throw out when the needles begin to fall.
- Have a switch away from the tree for turning the lights on and off.
- Check decorative lighting for frayed and loose sockets.
- Turn off lights whenever going to bed or going out.
- Use noncombustible decorative materials.
- Gather up gift wrapping and dispose of promptly after presents are opened.

