



**Medicine Hat**  
FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

# HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

## PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.

INSIDE THE HOME	YES	NO
<b>DETECTORS*</b>		
There are smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of the home.		
You test smoke/carbon monoxide alarms once per month.		
Batteries are replaced yearly if your alarms are not hardwired.		
You can hear all alarms in the home, especially in sleeping areas.		
Smoke alarms more than 10 years old are replaced.		
<i>Check manufacturer's instructions on alarm installation, testing, maintenance and replacement requirements.</i>		
<b>ESCAPE PLANNING</b>		
Family/residents have prepared and practiced a home fire escape plan, including meeting place.		
Everyone knows what to do once a fire starts, including who helps children, older adults and pets.		
Everyone knows two exits from each bedroom or sleeping area.		
Entrances are free and clear of obstructions.		
Overnight guests are aware of the home escape plan and meeting place.		
Everyone knows to call 9-1-1 in an emergency from a safe phone outside the residence.		
Everyone knows to get out and stay out. No one goes back in!		
<b>KITCHEN</b>		
Cooking is never left unattended.		
Check for cracked/worn electrical cords on appliances.		
Countertop appliances are unplugged when not in use.		
Curtains and towels are clear of heat sources.		
There is a fire extinguisher near the kitchen.		
<b>LIVING AREAS</b>		
Cracked/worn electrical cords are replaced as needed.		
Electrical outlets are never overloaded.		
Wires or electrical cords do not run under carpet/rugs.		
Extension cords are not used as permanent wiring.		
Gas and/or wood fireplaces have screens.		
Gas appliances are inspected annually.		
Electronics have airspace to prevent overheating.		
Portable heaters are away from doorways, combustibles and high-traffic areas.		
Hallways are clear of obstructions.		
Candles are extinguished when you leave the room or LED battery-operated candles are used.		

	YES	NO
<b>BEDROOM</b>		
Lamps are clear of combustibles like curtains or clothing.		
Bedroom doors are closed at night (this can save your life).		
Candles are extinguished before falling asleep or LED battery-operated candles are used.		
Windows open easily (security bars are quickly and easily opened from the inside).		
Second- and third-level bedrooms have escape ladders.		
A phone is near your bed (landline or cell phone).		
No one smokes in bed.		
<b>BASEMENT</b>		
Electrical panel is clear of obstructions.		
Furnace and hot water tank are clear of obstructions and combustibles.		
The furnace room stores no flammables.		
<b>GARAGE</b>		
Gasoline is stored in an approved container in the shed, NOT in the garage.		
Used rags are stored in a metal container with tight-fitting lid.		
A fire extinguisher is located in the garage.		
Garage is kept clear of sawdust/wood shavings.		
No car is even left idling in the garage.		
<b>OTHER</b>		
Matches and lighters are always out of the reach of children.		
Important papers (e.g. documents, identification, heirlooms) are in a fire-resistant safe.		

	YES	NO
<b>OUTSIDE OF HOME</b>		
Cigarettes are never extinguished in planters, on grass, in peat moss or mulch.		
BBQ's and firepits are a safe distance from the house and combustibles (siding, decks).		
Children stay a safe distance from BBQ's and firepits.		
Firepits are never left unsupervised.		
There is no debris or dead vegetation near the house.		
Trees are pruned and thinned to reduce fuel potential.		
Woodpiles are stacked away from the house.		
Branches hanging over or touching the roof are trimmed back.		

## TENANT'S INSURANCE

**Unfortunately, fires do happen.** Please protect yourself by ensuring you have adequate insurance coverage. If you're a renter, you also need to have insurance—your landlord's insurance will not cover any of your belongings.

## CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR RESIDENCE?

If you have questions or concerns about making your home fire-safe, or to book a free home inspection, please respond by calling Medicine Hat Fire and Emergency Services at (403) 529-8282.

