



Our Personal Home Fire Safety Checklist

Burn Awareness Week • Feb. 7-13, 2010

Join us for a special preschoolers storytime Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Allen County Public Library main branch. Meet Spotz the fire dog!

Smoke Detectors

- As required by Indiana State law, a working smoke detector is placed outside each bedroom area and on every level of our home.
- For best protection, we have installed a smoke detector in every room of our house.
- We test all our smoke detectors at least once each month.
- We replace all our smoke detectors batteries at least once a year.
- We never remove the battery from a smoke detector unless we are replacing it.
- All our smoke detectors are 4-6 inches from where the walls and ceilings meet.
- All our smoke detectors are cleaned regularly and we have never painted over them.
- We understand that hard-wired, interconnected smoke alarms are the best defense.
- If necessary for our family, we have installed hearing-impaired smoke detectors.
- We have installed at least one of each type of detector, photoelectric and ionization, on every level of our house.
- If our first way out is not safe, we know to move quickly to our second way out.
- Our bedroom windows can be opened easily by all family members.
- We have easily accessible fire-escape ladders in all upper story bedrooms.
- Everyone knows our special family meeting place where we will go immediately after escaping from a fire.
- We know to call 911 after we escape from the house and meet at our meeting place.
- We know not to take the time to try to collect pets or valuables if a fire strikes our house. **GET OUT AND STAY OUT! NEVER GO BACK INSIDE FOR ANYTHING!**
- We keep a flashlight (to help see) and a whistle (to wake others) next to our bed.
- All of our doors, hallways, stairs and bedroom windows are clear of obstructions.
- We have frequent family fire drills, even when some family members are sleeping.

Fire Escape

- Our whole family has talked about and helped to draw a home fire escape plan.
- We all know two ways out of every room in our house, especially the bedrooms.
- If our smoke detector sounds, we know to "STAY LOW AND GO" because smoke and heat rise to the ceiling first and will spread rapidly throughout the house.
- We know to feel interior doors before opening them. If warm, we go to our second way out; if cool, we open the door slowly.
- After opening a cool door but before proceeding out the door, we know to look around for smoke and fire and to feel for heat.
- We know to shut doors behind us as we escape from a fire.
- All matches and lighters in our house are kept in a securely locked drawer or cabinet.
- No smoking in bed or when sleepy is the rule for any smokers in our house.
- We have several large ashtrays around the house for smokers.
- Before emptying ashtrays, we make sure the ashes are cold or pour water on them.
- When adults in our house use matches, lighters, candles or cigarettes, they do so in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Everyone understands that matches and lighters are adult tools—not toys—and, just as power tools and guns, they are not to be left where children can have access to them.

Kitchen Safety

- Everyone understands that the kitchen is not a child's play area.
- No one ever leaves the kitchen with food cooking on the stove or in the broiler.
- We never wear loose-fitting clothing while cooking.
- When cooking, pan handles are turned to the back of the stove and we don't allow utensil chords to dangle over counter edges.
- When cooking, we always keep a pan lid nearby to cover the pan in case of fire.
- We keep oven mitts, dish towels, paper towels and other flammable items away from stove burners.
- We keep our kitchen cooking area clean and uncluttered.
- We understand that we never use water to try to extinguish a grease fire. Only an ABC fire extinguisher, baking soda or a pan lid should be used to extinguish a grease fire.

Electric and Heating Fire Safety

- We have our furnace cleaned and maintained regularly.
- Our furnace area is free of trash, papers and flammable products.
- All space heaters and grills need space and are kept a minimum of three feet from items that could ignite or melt.
- We know to never refuel a kerosene heater inside the house.
- We never leave space heaters unattended or sleep while they are being used.
- Our chimney is cleaned and checked each year.
- Our fireplace has a metal screen or glass door which is kept closed whenever a fire is burning.
- If our house has gas appliances or a fireplace, we have installed a carbon monoxide detector near the bedrooms.
- None of our electrical cords are frayed, cracked or placed under rugs.
- None of our electrical outlets are overlooked.
- We use power strips with circuit breakers instead of extension cords.

General Fire Safety

- We know to stop, drop and roll if our clothing catches on fire.
- We know our clothes should never catch on fire if we are careful when using fire.
- We never leave burning candles unattended and always keep them out of reach of children and pets.
- Our water heater thermostat is set below 120-130° F.
- We only keep gasoline and other flammable liquids in approved containers, which are stored outside the house.
- We never use a flammable liquid such as a cleaning fluid or to start a fire in the fireplace.
- ABC fire extinguishers are kept on each floor and near exit doors.
- We know to cool burns with cold water. Never use ice, lotions, creams or butter.
- We routinely check our clothes dryer and dryer hose for lint build-up.
- Our family understands that although children's curiosity about fire is normal, play and experimentation with fire is dangerous behavior that will be stopped immediately.
- Our family understands that most fires are caused by simple carelessness and it is every family member's personal responsibility to practice fire safety at all times.

For additional fire and life safety information or materials, to schedule a tour of the FWFD Survive Alive House located in the Safety Village, or to schedule a fire safety presentation for your group, please call the Fort Wayne Fire Department Safety Education Division at 427.1278, 427.05179 or 427.1368.

For burn awareness information, please contact the St. Joseph Regional Burn Center at 425.3573.

Source: Fort Wayne Fire Department