



Calgary Fire Department

# HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST



Tick **yes** or **no**, then add up your total to find out your score.

	Yes	No
<b>Inside the home</b>		
<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 <i>not</i> hardwired.		
• You can hear all alarms in the home, especially in sleeping areas.		
• Smoke alarms more than 10 years old are replaced.		
*Check manufacturer's instructions on alarm installation, testing, maintenance and replacement requirements.		
<b>Escape planning</b>		
• Family/residents have prepared and practised 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 <b>get out and stay out</b> . 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 carpets/rugs.		
• Extension cords are not used as permanent wiring.		
• Gas and/or wood fireplaces have screens.		
• Gas appliances are inspected annually.		
• Wood fireplace chimneys are cleaned 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>Bedrooms</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 sleep 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 a tight-fitting lid.		
• A fire extinguisher is located in the garage.		
• Garage is kept clear of sawdust/wood shavings.		
• No car is ever 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 the home</b>		
• Cigarettes are never extinguished in planters, on grass, in peat moss or mulch.		
• Barbeques and firepits are a safe distance from the house and from combustibles (siding, decks, etc.).		
• Children stay a safe distance from barbeques 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.		
<b>Your Total</b>		

### YOUR GRADE:

**53 "yes" answers - Your Grade: A**  
You should be a firefighter! - Incredible

**47 to 52 "yes" answers - Your Grade: B**  
Excellent! Just a few safety improvements to make.

**41 to 46 "yes" answers - Your Grade: C+**  
Getting there, but there's definitely room for improvement.

**40 and under - Your Grade: C**  
You and your family have some serious safety work to do. Make this a priority.



**Calgary Fire Department**  
*Yours for life.*

For more information, visit [calgary.ca/fire](http://calgary.ca/fire) or call 3-1-1.

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