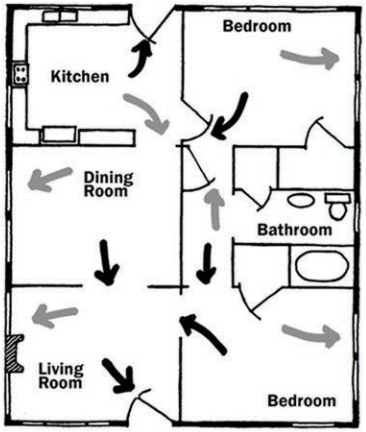
SAFETY MEASURES

Do you have these safety items in your home?

- Working **smoke alarms** on all levels and outside sleeping areas? Have you tested the alarms in the last month?
- ABC or ABCD **fire extinguisher** in the kitchen and/or workshop?
- An emergency **exit plan**, with two ways out from each room?
- A **meeting place** outside?



HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY™

Remember, know two ways out of every room you go in to!

State Fire Marshal's Office

Texas Department of Insurance
333 Guadalupe Street
PO Box 149221 - MC 112-FM
Austin, TX 78714
512-305-7900

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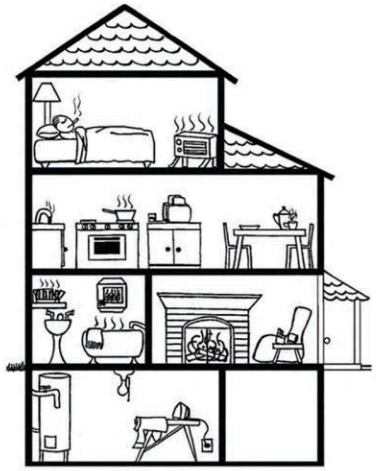
HOME SAFETY SERIES

How FIRE SAFE Is Your Home?

Published by the Texas State Fire Marshal and the Texas Department of Insurance
April 2012

Make fire safety a "family business" by involving the entire family in a fire safety inspection. Here are some good tips to use as a guide.



KITCHEN

- Keep matches and lighters stored out of reach of children.
- Do not overload outlets, or use worn or frayed appliance cords.
- Keep flammable liquids or aerosols stored away from the stove top or other heat source.
- Do not store items above the stove top where someone could get burned reaching for them.
- If you can, use the back burners to cook because they are the safest.

LIVING ROOM, FAMILY ROOM, DEN, AND BEDROOMS

- Make sure no extension cords run under rugs or carpets, or are looped over nails or other sharp objects that could cause them to fray. Replace overloaded or frayed extension cords.
- Keep the fireplace screened and clean it regularly.
- Keep space heaters three feet away from curtains, furniture, and papers.
- Never smoke in bed – PERIOD!

BASEMENT, GARAGE, AND STORAGE AREAS

- Keep areas near furnace, water heater, or other heat source free from newspapers or other trash.
- Dispose of oily/greasy rags in a safe, sealed container.
- Do not store gasoline or other flammable liquids in the house, basement, or near a workbench or pilot light.
- Do not overload outlets or extension cords.
- Store your lawnmower in an outdoor tool shed. If you must store it in the garage, keep it as far from the water heater as possible.

DANGEROUS ACTIONS

Do you allow unsafe habits? These guidelines may help your family become more aware of their safety:

- Wear close-fitting sleeves while cooking.
- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
- Never use gasoline to start a fire on the grill, or add lighter fluid to an already lit fire.
- Do not smoke in bed, in a chair, or on the sofa when tired, drinking, or taking medication.
- Never spray aerosols while smoking or near a space heater, stove top, or other ignition source.
- Never lean against a stove burner for warmth or stand too close to a lit fireplace.
- Never use a lighted match, lighter, or candle to illuminate a dark area like a closet.
- Never plug major appliances into a power strip. Use the wall outlets.
- Never keep anything permanently plugged into an extension cord.