

## Keeping your family safe from fire

- ☑ Smoke alarms should be installed on every level (including the basement), inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.
- ☑ All smoke alarms in the home are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
- ☑ All smoke alarms are tested at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- ☑ Everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm.
- ☑ All smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- ☑ The home fire escape plan is practiced twice a year.
- ☑ An automatic fire sprinkler system has been installed in a newly built or remodeled home.



### For more information contact:

Howard County Department of  
Fire and Rescue Services  
Office of the Fire Marshal  
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 4th Fl.  
Columbia, MD 21046  
(410) 313-6040  
(410) 313-6066 fax  
[www.hcdfrs.org](http://www.hcdfrs.org)

For TTY Service:  
Dial 711 - Maryland Relay

## Home Fire Prevention Checklist



Department of Fire and Rescue Services  
[www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov)

## Cooking

- ✓ An adult stays in the kitchen anytime food is cooking on the stovetop.
- ✓ The stovetop is clean - no grease, no spills, no clutter.
- ✓ Pot handles are turned toward the back of the stove.



## Heating

- ✓ Space heaters are at least 3 feet from anything that can burn (walls, curtains, bedding or furniture).
- ✓ The chimney has been inspected or cleaned in the past 12 months.
- ✓ The heating system has been inspected or cleaned in the past 12 months.
- ✓ The fireplace has a glass screen large enough to catch sparks and cover fireplace opening.
- ✓ Carbon monoxide alarms are located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.



## Electrical

- ✓ Make sure electrical cords are in good condition - not damaged, cracked, or loose.
- ✓ Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which reduce the risk of shock by shutting off electricity when it becomes a shock hazard, are hard-wired into the electrical system or built into electrical outlets or extension cords. GFCIs are installed in bathrooms, basements, garages, outdoors, at kitchen counters, and other locations in the home where there are sinks or basins.

- ✓ Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), a type of circuit breaker that shuts off the electricity when a dangerous condition occurs, have been installed in the home. Arcs can happen at loose connections or where wires or cords have been damaged. This can lead to high temperatures and sparking, possibly igniting things that can burn.
- ✓ A qualified electrician is called to do electrical work in the home.



## Smoking

- ✓ Smokers smoke outside.
- ✓ Deep, sturdy ashtrays are provided for smokers.
- ✓ Matches and lighters are kept up high, in a locked closet.