

Home Fire Safety Inspection Checklist

- ⊗ Electrical cords are in good condition (not damaged).
- ⊗ Appliances and lights are plugged into separate electrical outlets.
- ⊗ All smoke alarms work when tested by a grown-up.
- ⊗ All escape routes are clear of clutter and easily accessible.
- ⊗ Curtains & other things that can burn are away from the stovetop.
- ⊗ Portable space heaters are off whenever a grown-up leaves the room and goes to sleep.
- ⊗ The clothes dryer has a clean vent and filter (no lint build-up).
- ⊗ A grown-up always stays in the kitchen whenever food is cooking on the stovetop.
- ⊗ All extension cords are used safely (not under carpets or across walking areas).
- ⊗ Portable space heaters are 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- ⊗ The furnace has been inspected in the past year.
- ⊗ The chimney has been inspected & cleaned in the past year.



Volunteer Fire/EMS Stations

Cape Charles Rescue Service, Inc.
22215 South Bayside Road, PO Box 3009
Cheriton, VA 23316

Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
501 Mason Avenue, PO Box 427
Cape Charles, VA 23310
<http://capecharles.org/emer1.htm>

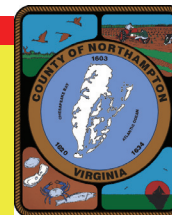
Cheriton Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
21334 Bayside Road, PO Box 41
Cheriton, VA 23316
<http://www.cheritonvfd.org/>

Community Fire Company, Inc.
3356 Main Street, PO Box 706
Exmore, VA 23350

Eastville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
16453 Courthouse Road, PO Box 301
Eastville, VA 23347
<http://www.eastvillevolunteerfirecompany.com/>

Northampton Fire & Rescue, Inc.
10239 Pine Avenue, PO Box 833
Nassawadox, VA 23413

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES



13294 Lankford Highway
PO Box 235
Eastville, VA 23347
<http://www.co.northampton.va.us/>

Phone: 757-678-0411
Fax: 757-678-7288
E-mail: hcarpenter@co.northampton.va.us

It's Fire Prevention Week
**PREVENT
HOME FIRES**

Fire
Prevention
&
Home Safety

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES**



Home Safety Tips

Cooking with Care:

- ◆ Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.



- ◆ Keep anything that can catch fire – potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags – away from your stovetop.

- ◆ Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and catch fire.

- ◆ Always keep an oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on the oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool.

Everyday Electrical Safety:

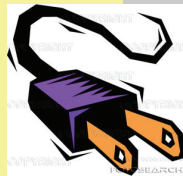
- ◆ Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn, such as lamp shades, bedding, curtains, and clothing.

- ◆ Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords.

- ◆ Use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.

- ◆ Homes with young children should have tamper-resistant electrical receptacles.

- ◆ Call a qualified electrician or landlord if you have recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, discolored or warm wall outlets, flickering lights or a burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance.



Healthy Heating:

- ◆ Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms to avoid risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ◆ Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- ◆ Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- ◆ Turn portable space heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- ◆ An oven should not be used to heat a home.

Strike Out Smoking-materials Fires:

- ◆ If you smoke, choose fire-safe cigarettes if they are available in your area.
- ◆ If you smoke, smoke outside.
- ◆ Wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.
- ◆ Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used.
- ◆ Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet, out of the reach of children.



Candle with Caution:



- ◆ Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- ◆ Use sturdy, safe candleholders.
- ◆ Never leave a burning candle unattended. Blow out candles when you leave a room.
- ◆ Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- ◆ Use flashlights for emergency lighting.

Safety 101:

- ◆ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- ◆ Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- ◆ Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- ◆ Make sure everyone can hear the sound of the smoke alarms.
- ◆ Have a home fire escape plan. Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible, and a meeting place outside. Practice your escape plan twice a year.
- ◆ When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
- ◆ If you are building or remodeling your home, consider a residential fire sprinkler system.



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

- ◆ They remain your best bet if you're on the spot when a fire begins.
- ◆ Fire extinguishers should be mounted in the kitchen, garage, and workshop.
- ◆ Purchase an ABC type extinguisher for extinguishing all types of fires.
- ◆ Learn how to use your fire extinguisher before there is an emergency.
- ◆ Remember, use an extinguisher on small fires only. If there is a large fire, get out immediately and call 911 from another location.



THINKING AHEAD: Your Exit Plan:

- ◆ As with other things, the best motto is, "Be Prepared."
- ◆ Prepare a floor plan of your home showing at least two ways out of each room.
- ◆ Sleep with your bedroom door closed. In the event of fire, it helps to hold back heat and smoke. But if a door feels hot, do not open it; escape through another door or window.
- ◆ Easy-to-use window escape ladders are available through many catalogues and outlet stores. For instance, First Alert sells one for around \$90.
- ◆ Agree on a fixed location out-of-doors where family members are to gather for a head count.
- ◆ Stay together away from the fire. Call 911 from another location. Make certain that no one goes back inside the burning building.
- ◆ Check corridors and stairways to make sure they are free of obstructions and combustibles.



- ◆ To help cut down on the need for an emergency exit in the first place, clear all unnecessary items from the attic, basement, garage, and closets.

Clothes Dryer:

- ◆ Under some circumstances, dangerous heat can build up in a dryer.
- ◆ Never leave home with the clothes dryer running.
- ◆ Dryers must be vented to the outside, not into a wall or attic.
- ◆ Clean the lint screen frequently to keep the airway clear.
- ◆ Never put in synthetic fabrics, plastic, rubber, or foam because they retain heat.