



## The \_\_\_\_\_ Family's **Home Safety Action Plan**

### **ACTION #1**

#### **Make the first Saturday of each month "Smoke Alarm Saturday"!**

A working smoke alarm will clue you in that there is a fire and you need to escape. Fire moves fast. You and your family could have only minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test all of your smoke alarms by pushing the test button. If it makes a loud beep, beep, beep sound, you know it's working. If there is no sound or the sound is low, it's time to replace the battery. If the smoke alarm is older than 10 years old, you need to replace the whole unit.
- If your smoke alarm makes a "chirp," that means it needs a new battery. Change the battery right away.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the alarm and what to do when it sounds. (See ACTION #2.)



### **ACTION #2**

#### **Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year!**

Having a home fire escape plan will make sure everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds so they can get out safely.

- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure they are part of the plan.
- Make sure all escape routes are clear and that doors and windows open easily.
- Pick an outside meeting place (something permanent like a neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet.
- Everyone in the home should know the fire department's emergency number and how to call once they are safely outside.
- Practice! Practice! Practice! Practice day and nighttime home fire drills. Share your home escape plans with overnight guests.

### **REMEMBER:**

#### **When You Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!**

Get out and stay out. Call **9-1-1** from your outside meeting place.

#### **Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!**

A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries or the entire alarm if it is older than 10 years old. If you don't remember how old it is, replace it.





# Keep Cool

## Home Maintenance Summer Checklist

- **Check** your A/C unit and change or clean air filters.
- **Trim** any trees, bushes, shrubs, and apply fertilizer to lawn.
- **Power wash** windows and siding. Repaint or touch up siding, if needed.
- **Clean** lint from dryer exhaust.
- **Clean** and organize garage.
- **Check and replace** the grout or caulking around kitchen sinks, tubs, and toilets.
- **Clean** chimney.
- **Inspect** all plumbing around the house for leaks and clean aerators and faucets.
- **Inspect** basement/crawl space for any type of moisture issue and repair, if needed.
- **Clean** deck. Check and replace rotting and loose boards and re-stain, if needed.
- **Inspect** fencing and repair, if needed.
- **Check** roof for missing, loose, or damaged shingles, and repair if needed.

# Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

## SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

## CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

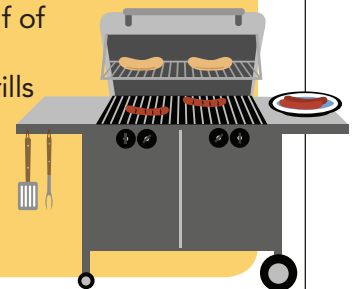
## PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

## FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



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