



7852 Walker Drive, Suite 450
Greenbelt, MD 20770
info@firecorps.org

888.FC.INFO1 (324-6361) toll-free
202.887.4809 office
202.887.5291 fax

Dear Fire Corps Representative:

According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,348,500 fires in 2009. These fires resulted in 3,010 civilian fire fatalities, 17,050 civilian fire injuries and an estimated \$12.5 billion in direct property loss. There was a civilian fire injury every 31 minutes. Recognizing these alarming statistics, Fire Corps has created the Home Safety Checklist to help your Fire Corps team implement a home safety check program in your community.

This Home Safety Checklist provides a basic, step-by-step approach to ensure residents are safer and more secure. The Checklist includes information to fit a variety of household situations, including those where children, older residents, pets, and/or those with disabilities may reside. It also identifies hazards you should look for outside the home to help prevent fires or other emergency situations from occurring.

In an effort to assist your program in providing critical services to your community, Fire Corps has partnered with First Alert to provide a smoke alarm donation program for registered Fire Corps programs. Your program may apply for these free smoke alarms online at www.firecorps.org and learn how to install a SA340CN 10-year smoke and fire alarm with a demonstration video from First Alert. Please keep in mind that smoke alarm quantities are limited and restrictions apply.

Thank you for your efforts to make not only your community, but also the emergency personnel in your department safer by checking for and educating residents about dangers in and around homes in your neighborhoods.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Fire Corps national office at 1-888-FC-INFO1 (324-6361) or info@firecorps.org.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lee
Fire Corps Director

Enclosure



Home Safety Checklist

Fire Corps is committed to helping residents provide a safe home for themselves and their families. Below are a few items Fire Corps teams can look for in and around the home to lessen hazards and alleviate potential risks. Please note this Checklist is simply a starting point to help residents improve their home safety and does not include all potential risks that may be present in a home.

- Are working smoke alarms located in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, such as the hallway, and on every level of the home? Test each alarm to ensure the batteries are working properly. First Alert and Fire Corps have partnered to provide smoke alarms to Fire Corps teams performing home safety checks in their communities. To apply for alarms, please use the enclosed application form or apply online at www.firecorps.org/prevention.
- Are fire extinguishers available on every level of the home and near areas where fires are more likely to occur, such as the kitchen, garage, and grill? Make sure the resident knows how to use the extinguisher.
- Are working carbon monoxide detectors located near each bedroom and on every level of the home? Test each detector to ensure the batteries are working properly.
- Do the residents have a fire escape plan? Consider practicing the escape plan with the family and pets and also post a written description of the plan on the refrigerator for reference.
- Is the home equipped with an emergency supply kit? Visit Ready.gov to obtain a list of what should be included in the kit.
- Is a phone accessible to all members in the household? A phone with emergency numbers programmed in or posted nearby should be available so children and older adults can easily call for help in case of an emergency.
- Are elderly residents living in the home? Ensure all throw rugs are secured to the floor with an adhesive and make sure all stairways, paths, and walkways are well lit to prevent falls.
- Can deadbolt locks be unlocked from the inside without a key? Can a child or residents with disabilities work the locks and get out in the event of a fire or other emergency?
- Are young children residing in the home? Make sure child locks are installed on all cabinets used to store dangerous items such as poisons, cleaners, matches, and lighters.
- Are pets living in the home? Refer the family to the Humane Society web site (www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources) for safety tips regarding their pets. You may wish to order brochures and/or print information from the site for residents without internet access.
- Does the home have central heat? Check all filters and vents for cleanliness. Also clean out the lint and debris that may build up in the clothes dryer vent that leads to the outside of the house.
- Are all unused outlets covered with safety plugs? Check used outlets to ensure they are not being overloaded. Check cords for frays and warmth.
- Does the home have a pool, hot tub, or other large bodies of water? If so, make sure each is surrounded by five-foot fencing with self-locking and self-closing gates.
- Is the outside of the home fire safe? Ensure dead or dying trees and shrubs are removed; keep dry brush and debris at least 30 feet away from the home; and clear roof, gutters, and eaves of debris.
- Are there candles in the home? Make sure candle placement is away from curtains and other furniture or products where items can easily catch fire. Educate the family about candle safety and alternatives to candles, such as reed diffusers or flameless candles.

