

City Of Crowley Fire Department

Fire Prevention & Inspection Office

201 E Main St Crowley TX, 76036

Phone: (817) 297-1638 ext. 5020 Email: FireMarshal@ci.crowley.tx.us



Home Fire Safety Evaluation Checklist

	Yes	No	Item
1.			Is a working smoke detector installed in each sleeping room?
2.			Is a working smoke detector installed in the hallway near the sleeping rooms?
3.			If the house is more than one story is a working smoke detector installed at the top of the stairs?
4.			Does each sleeping room, dining area, and living area have at least one of the following secondary means of escape other than the "front" or "back" door of the home? A) A door leading directly to the outside; or B) An outside window with a minimum opening of not less than 5.7 sq. ft. in area, minimum of 20 inches wide, at least 24 inches high, and no higher than 44 inches above the floor are most often provided; or C) A non-locking door into an adjoining room that has a means of escape described in A or B above.
5.			Can a person travel from any room of the house to an exit that leads directly outside without having to pass through an interior door than can be locked?
6.			Can all primary exterior exit doors, windows used as a secondary means of escape, and any security bars incorporated with these primary and secondary means of escape, be opened from the inside without the use of a key, tool or special knowledge (security code, combination)?
7.			Are the closet doors, equipped with doorknobs that a child can opened from the inside?
8.			If the bathroom door is equipped with a lock, can the door be unlocked from the outside during an emergency?
9.			Can all bedrooms and/or living areas above the first floor be accessed by a standard set of stairs?
10.			Are all gas, wood, or fuel-fired heaters used in the home vented to the outside?
11.			Are heaters, including wood burning or gas log fireplaces, equipped with immovable screens or barriers to prevent contact with open flames or hot surfaces?
12.			Are gas appliances (heaters, water heaters, stoves) equipped with metal tubing and metal connectors?
13.			Are all gas-fired heaters inspected annually by a qualified technician?
14.			Are combustible items (things that burn) stored away from any stove, heater, or fireplace in the Foster Home?
15.			Are all lighters and matches kept out of the reach of children?
16.			Are flammable liquids stored in safety cans and kept away from heat and children?
17.			Is there an operable five-pound dry chemical fire extinguisher available for use in the kitchen?
18.			Has a Home Fire Escape Plan been written, practiced, and documented?
19.			Does the electrical system appear to be in good condition?

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Home Fire Safety Evaluation Checklist

Instructions

This checklist is provided to the Citizens of Crowley, for the purpose of reviewing general fire safety in their homes. These recommendations are taken from NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*®, a nationally recognized standard adopted by the State Fire Marshal and recommend by the Crowley Fire Department. They are intended to provide minimum recommendations of fire safety in Homes.

For the purpose of this evaluation an owner is defined as the adult resident(s) having primary responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the home, regardless of who actually owns the home or building.

Using the checklist as a guide, review the fire safety requirements and answer each item “yes” or “no” with a check mark in the appropriate box. If any item is checked “no” it is recommended to make changes to improve the fire safety of the home.

Explanation of each item on the checklist:

1. Smoke detectors may receive power from the building electrical system or batteries. Check the smoke detector monthly for proper operation by pressing the test button or switch on the unit. Do not use a flame or smoke to test the unit. If a battery-powered smoke detector does not operate when tested, change the battery and retest. If the unit still does not work, replace the smoke detector. Any non-functional line-powered smoke detectors should be replaced. Batteries should be changed at least twice a year. Statistics show about one-third of the smoke detectors installed in homes are inoperative. When detectors are non-operational, the usual reason is dead or missing batteries. The detector(s) should be mounted according to manufacturer’s instructions.
2. In addition to providing a smoke detector within each sleeping room, smoke detector(s) should be located in the hall area(s) in the vicinity of the sleeping rooms. The detector(s) should be mounted according to manufacturer’s instructions. The smoke detectors should be tested in the same manner as described above.
3. In multi-story homes, the smoke detector that covers the upper floor(s) should usually be located at the top of the stairs. The detector(s) should be mounted according to manufacturer’s instructions. The smoke detectors should be tested in the same manner as described above.

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4. Every sleeping room and every living and dining area should be provided with access to a secondary means of escape to the outside of the home in addition to the front or back doors. The purpose of the secondary means of escape is to provide an occupant with an alternate escape route when fire or other emergency blocks the primary exit from the Foster Home.

Three types of secondary means of escape that are suggested:

(A) A door that opens to the outside.

OR

(B) The use of an open-able window in the sleeping rooms and living areas of the home that provides an opening of not less than 5.7 sq. ft. in area, minimum of 20 inches wide, at least 24 inches high, and no higher than 44 inches above the floor are most often provided.

OR

(C) Every sleeping room and living area without a secondary means of escape (as described in A or B above), has a passage, other than the hallway, to another room that has a means of escape as described in A or B above. The passage should not have any doors that can be locked. An example would be two bedrooms or living areas directly connected with a passage or door. A shared bathroom connecting two living area or sleeping rooms usually will not be acceptable because one or both of the doors could be locked, preventing passage from one room to the other.

5. Having to pass through locked doors can greatly increase the time and ability to safely exit the home.

6. Primary exit doors and secondary means of escape, such as windows, and security bars that require a key, opening tool or special knowledge (security code, combination) are strongly discouraged. Several multiple-death fires have occurred when a door lock could not be released because the key could not be found.

7. The ability of a child being able to open a closet door from the inside is to ensure that the child cannot accidentally become locked inside.

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8. Children will often lock themselves in the bathroom. Provisions for unlocking the doors from the outside will facilitate rescue by other occupants or by fire department personnel.
9. An attic room, for example, accessible only by a trap door or folding ladder, would not be a suggested primary means of escape. A standard set of stairs to access the room would be suggested.
10. Unvented heaters are not equipped with vents to the outside of the home. These heaters depend on regular maintenance, proper adjustment, and an adequate air supply for proper combustion. Unvented heaters can release lethal carbon monoxide into the home, deplete the oxygen levels in the home to dangerous limits, or provide an ignition source for a fire. Unvented heaters should bear the mark or label of an approved testing firm and be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and applicable safety codes.
11. It is important to provide safeguards to protect children from the hot surfaces of heating equipment. Children do not always understand the dangers of hot surfaces. Screens (barriers) that prevent children from accessing heating equipment should be of closely spaced wire or expanded metal and should be securely attached to parts of the building to prevent movement.
12. All gas appliances should be equipped with metal tubing and connectors, no rubber hoses.
13. All gas-fired heaters, including any central heating unit, should be inspected annually by a qualified person to ensure the unit is in proper working order to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
14. There should be no storage of any item that could burn (boxes, paper, clothing, wood scraps, or blankets/pillows near stoves, heaters, fireplaces, or other sources of flame or heat, including the gas water heater closets or other gas fired appliances.
15. All matches and or lighters should be out of the reach of children. Children playing with matches and/or cigarette lighters cause many deaths and millions of dollars in damage each year.
16. Flammable liquids should be stored in safety cans with the lids shut to prevent vapors from escaping the cans.

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17. There should be a five-pound portable fire extinguisher mounted on a wall in the area of the kitchen to extinguish small fires that may develop in or on the stove.

18. Home fire escape plans are essential to enable all residents to know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds or other signs of fire are present. Home fire escape plans should be rehearsed by all occupants each month to remain effective. The plan should enable all family members to escape using primary or secondary exits. A safe location outside the home should be selected for a gathering point, well away from the dangers of the fire or responding emergency vehicles.

19. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis. When the cords remain plugged in, they become part of the building wiring system. No frayed or spliced appliance cords should be permitted because of the danger of a short circuit. All unused openings in the electrical circuit breaker box should be covered to prevent any material from coming in contact with live electrical wires.

NOTE

The above recommendations set a minimum standard for fire safety in the home. Special situations and circumstances may call for increased fire safety requirements above those detailed above.