



# HAYS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



## HOME SAFETY CHECK LIST

The following is a home safety checklist for you. Please take some time and go over it to see how safe your home really is. For questions or concerns please call your local fire department or the Hays County Fire Marshal's Office.

### SOME FIRE FACTS

#### What is the number one cause of fires in the home?



- (1) Cooking equipment, from 1992 to 1996, an annual average of 97,300 cooking fires caused 310 civilian deaths, 4,830 civilian injuries, and almost \$400 million in direct property damage.

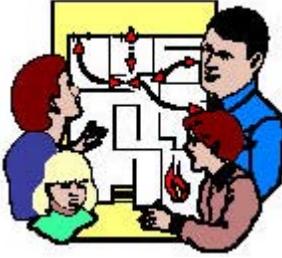
#### What are causes 2 through 5?

- (2) Heating equipment
- (3) Arson or suspected arson
- (4) Other household equipment
- (5) Electrical distribution equipment, including wiring, lamps, outlets, switches, fuses, and circuit breakers

#### When do the majority of fatal home fires happen?

- (1) At night, when people are asleep and the number-one cause of home fires that kill people is smoking.
- (2) Arson or suspected arson.
- (3) Number three is heating equipment.
- (4) Number four is electrical distribution and five is children playing with fire.

## **HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN AND PRACTICE IT.**



Sit down with your family and talk about what you should do in case of a fire. Make sure you have a meeting place outside the home.

## **KNOW TWO WAYS OUT**

Discuss and diagram two ways out from every room, especially bedrooms.

## **PLACE SMOKE DETECTORS SMARTLY**



Have a working smoke detector outside your bedrooms, one on each level, and if you have more place them in your bedrooms. If you cannot afford one go to any fire station and they will give you one.

## **CHECK THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS OFTEN**



A good way to remember is to change your clock change your batteries.

## **CLEAN YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR OFTEN**

Take off the cover and blow or vacuum it out on a regular basis.

## **KEEP FIRE EXTINGUISHERS HANDY**

Make sure you have a fire extinguisher available for emergencies and check it often. For information on how to check it and what kind to buy call the Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Department.



## **MAINTAIN A SAFE FIREPLACE AND CHIMNEY**

Clean the fireplace regularly and have the chimney cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified technician.

## **CHECK YOUR WIRING**

Have a professional electrician check for faulty wiring, especially if you own an older home.

## **CHECK YOUR DRYER HOSE**

Lint can cause a fire. Clean the hose and dryer annually, especially behind the dryer.



## **WATCH OUT FOR PORTABLE HEATERS**

Keep blankets, clothing, curtains, and anything that could get hot and catch fire away from portable heaters.

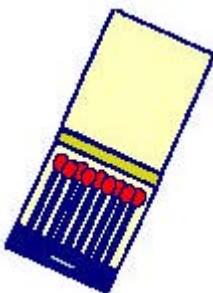
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## **SAFE COOKING PRACTICES**

Keep items away from the stove that could catch fire, such as towels, clothing, and curtains. Wear tight-fitting sleeves when cooking, loose sleeves, flowing robes, or frilly aprons might touch the burner and catch fire.

## **KEEP MATCHES AND LIGHTERS AWAY FROM CHILDREN**



Check to see where your matches and lighters are. Are they in a spot that small children cannot reach or do you leave them laying around on the tables and counters? Children tend to be curious about fire and may play with them.