We always stay in the kitchen when cooking, and watch cooking food closely.

We turn pot handles inward while cooking and always use back burners first to avoid burns.

We know to put a lid on a grease fire, never water. Baking soda or a fire extinguisher will work, too. (But never water, salt, baking powder, or flour.)

We keep papers, boxes, shelves, etc. at least three (3) feet from the furnace and water heater.

The furnace is checked annually by an expert.

If we burn wood, our chimney is cleaned regularly to avoid a creosote build-up.

Our fireplace has glass doors or a tight fitting metal screen to keep sparks from flying out.

We make sure our dryer vent is clear of lint and other obstructions.

We keep space heaters away from furniture and turn them off and unplug them when going to sleep or leaving the room.

Our water heater is set below 120° Fahrenheit.

We test the bath water to make sure it’s not too hot before anyone bathes.

We keep all appliances (hair dryers, curling irons, etc.) away from water to avoid electrocution.
Matches, Lighters, Candles and Careless Smoking Hazards

- All matches and lighters are kept out of the reach of young children, up high in a locked cabinet.
- Smokers use large, deep ashtrays and empty ashes into a metal container.
- Lit candles are always in a sturdy metal or glass base and placed on a non-flammable surface.
- My family knows to keep lit candles away from things that can burn, like curtains, blankets, towels, etc.
- My family makes sure candles aren’t burning anywhere in the home when leaving a room or going to sleep.

Electrical Hazards

- We use extension cords only temporarily and unplug them after use.
- We only plug one item into each plug-in (we do not use octopus plugs) to prevent overloading the outlet.
- We unplug all appliances such as toasters, coffeemakers, and toaster ovens when not in use and we watch them closely when in use.
- We cover unused outlets with outlet protectors if young children are in the home or will be visiting.
- Electrical cords are carefully inspected, kept in good condition, and used properly.

Housekeeping Safety Tips

- Our home address numbers are clearly posted in large numbers (at least four inches tall).
- We have an emergency preparedness kit assembled in case of emergency.
- We keep all medicines, vitamins, and poisons locked up and out of the reach.
- We have emergency numbers (911 and poison control) posted as a reminder for guests and children.
- We have installed carbon monoxide detectors according to manufacturer guidelines.
- We keep gasoline in an approved container outside of the home in a properly vented shed away from all heat sources.
- We only use the BBQ grill outside and keep it away from items that can burn (piles of leaves, papers etc.).

In Case of Fire

- In case of fire we know two ways out of each room in the home.
- Everyone knows where the meeting place is located. Outside of the home, in front, and away from the home. For example: a neighbor’s porch, community mailbox, light pole, or neighbor’s tree.
- We practice our exit drills often with the entire family so everyone knows what to do and where to meet.
- We know to call 911 from a neighbor’s home.