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ROUND ROCK FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FOSTER AND ADOPTION HOME
SAFETY INSPECTION GUIDELINES

This document is intended as a helpful guide to identify potential hazards and prepare your home for your life safety inspection. The list is not all inclusive and should be used as a guideline. However, if any of the following questions are answered NO, the inspection will result in a failed inspection and a re-inspection will be required to be scheduled at a later date. If there are any questions about this guide, please feel free to call or email the Round Rock Fire Marshal's Office.

Using the checklist as a guide, review the fire safety requirements. Circle each item "YES" or "NO". Any item must be circled "NO" must be corrected, to pass the inspection.

- 1) **YES NO** - Is a current/inspected/**STATE FIRE MARSHAL TAGGED** 5 lbs. (3A40BC rated) fire extinguisher available in the kitchen **AND** the second floor if the home is a two story? It must be inspected by a private company, even if it is new. **ALSO**, is the extinguisher securely anchored to the mounting surface and the top no higher than 5' above the floor **OR** the bottom no less than 4" above the from the floor.

- 2) **YES NO** - Is a working smoke detector installed in each sleeping room?

- 3) **YES NO** - Is a working smoke detector installed in the hallway near the sleeping rooms?

- 4) **YES NO** - If the residence is more than one story, is there a working smoke detector at the top of the stairs?

- 5) **YES NO** - Does each sleeping room and living area have **at least one of the following** secondary means of escape other than the "front" or "back" door of the residence?
 - A)** A door, stairway, passage or hall providing unobstructed travel leading directly to the outside of the dwelling; or
 - B)** An outside window with a minimum opening of not less than 5.7 sq. ft. in area, minimum of 20 inches wide, and at least 24 inches high, and no higher than 44 inches above the floor, located within 20ft of grade accessible to fire department apparatus; or
 - C)** A non-locking door into an adjoining room that has a means of escape described in A or B.

- 6) **YES NO** - 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 that can be locked?

- 7) **YES NO** - Can all primary exterior doors and windows be used as a secondary means of escape, and if security bars are installed, can they be opened from the inside without the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge (security code or combination)?

- 8) **YES NO** - Are the closet doors equipped so that a child can open the door from the inside?

- 9) **YES NO**-If the bathroom door is equipped with a lock, can the door be unlocked from the outside during an emergency?

- 10) **YES NO** - Can all bedrooms and/or living areas above the first floor be accessed by a standard set of stairs?

- 11) **YES NO** - Are all gas, wood, or fuel fired heaters used in the home vented to the outside? (Unless listed and approved)

- 12) **YES NO** - Are heaters, including wood burning or gas log fireplaces equipped with immovable screens or barriers to prevent contact with open flames or hot surfaces?

- 13) **YES NO** - Are gas appliances (heaters, water heaters, and stoves) equipped with metal tubing and metal connectors?

- 14) **YES NO** - Are all gas fired heaters inspected annually? (If property is a rental/leased unit, property owner or tenant must provide documentation of when heating unit was last inspected)

- 15) **YES NO** – Are there combustible (things that burn) materials stored near any stove, heater, or fireplace in the home?

- 16) **YES NO** - Are all lighters and matches stored in a secure area?

- 17) **YES NO** - Are flammable liquids stored in approved secure containers and not accessible to children?

- 18) **YES NO** - Has a Home Fire Escape Plan been documented, practiced, and posted in a readily viewable place in the home?

- 19) **YES NO** - Does the electrical system appear to be in good condition? No extension cords used as permanent wiring. Are surge protected devices used when extending power from an outlet? Are all outlet and switch covers in place?
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Foster/Adoption Family Fire Safety Evaluation Checklist

Explanation of each item on checklist in numerical order:

- 1) Extinguishers must be a minimum of 5 lbs. and marked as 3A:40BC on the label. They must have a State Fire Marshal Tag from a licensed fire inspection company. Search online for local companies that perform the test. The tag must be renewed every year. The extinguisher must be mounted to the wall. We have allowed it to be mounted in the pantry, if desired.
- 2) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 907.2.11.1, *smoke detectors (alarms) must be installed in all sleeping areas*. Smoke detectors shall receive power from the building electrical system and batteries. Test each month by pressing the test button. Do NOT use flame or smoke to test. Any non-functional detectors must be replaced. Statistics show that 1/3 or smoke detectors installed in homes are inoperative, usually due to dead batteries. Mount to manufacturer's instructions.
- 3) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 907.2.11.1, smoke detectors (alarms) must be installed in *the path of egress from the sleeping area to the door leading from the sleeping unit*. Smoke detectors must be installed in all hallways leading to bedrooms and tested as mentioned above.
- 4) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 907.2.11.1 smoke detectors (alarms) must be installed in *each story within the sleeping unit, including basements*. Smoke detectors shall be in all bedrooms, the hallways leading to sleeping rooms (bedrooms), AND at the top of the stairs. Test in the same manner as mentioned above.
- 5) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 1030.1, 1030.2, 1030.2.1, and 1030.3, all the above bullet points are explained in more detail. To explain further, every sleeping room and every living and dining area shall be provided with access to 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 home.

Three types of allowable secondary means of escape:

- a. A door that opens to the outside
- b. Window that can be opened in sleeping and living areas where the opening is not less than 5.7 sq. ft. or minimum 20 inches wide and 24 inches high. The bottom of the opening is no higher than 44 inches above the floor.
- c. Every sleeping room and living area without a secondary means of escape (as mentioned 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 cannot have doors that can be locked. For example, two bedrooms or living areas directly connected with a passage or door. A shared bathroom connecting two living areas or sleeping rooms usually will not be acceptable because one or both doors could be locked, preventing passage from one room to the other.

Note: There are two exceptions to the secondary means of escape from a bedroom or living area:

- a. If the bedroom or living area has a door opening directly to the outside of the building.
 - b. Where the home is protected throughout by an automatic fire sprinkler system.
- 6) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 1031.7, *required emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools*. No home may have any interior door used in a path of escape that can be locked.
 - 7) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 1031.2, *security devices affecting means of egress shall be continuously maintained and free from obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or another emergency*.
 - 8) This requirement is to ensure that the child cannot accidentally become locked inside.
 - 9) Children often lock themselves in the bathroom. Provision for unlocking the doors from the outside will facilitate rescue by other occupants or by fire department personnel.
 - 10) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 1022.1, *interior exit stairways and ramps shall be enclosed and lead directly to the exterior of the building and not used for any other purpose*

that interferes with the function of the means of egress. An attic room, for example, accessible only by a trap door of folding ladder, would not have an approved primary means of escape. A standard set of stairs to access the room would be required.

- 11) 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 must bear the mark or label of an approved testing firm and be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and applicable safety codes.
- 12) It is important to safeguard 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 must be of closely spaced wire or expanded metal and must be securely attached to parts of the building to prevent movement.
- 13) All gas appliances must be equipped with metal tubing and connectors, no rubber hoses.
- 14) All gas-fired heaters, including any central heating unit, should be inspected annually by a qualified person to ensure the unit in proper working order to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- 15) According to the 2015 International Fire Code section 508.1.5, *Combustible material shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms, electrical equipment rooms.* No storage of any item that can burn (paper, boxes, clothing, wood scraps, blankets/pillows) near stoves, heaters, fireplaces, or other sources of flame or heat, including the gas water heater closets or other gas fired appliances.
- 16) All matches and or lighters must be out of reach of children. Children playing with matches and/or cigarette lighters cause many deaths and millions of dollars in damage each year.
- 17) Flammable liquids should be stored in safety can with the lids shut to prevent vapors from escaping the cans. Also store in a cabinet or out of reach of children.
- 18) Home fire escape plans are essential to enable all residents to know what to do when the smoke alarm is activated, or other signs of fire are present. Home fire escape plans must 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 as a gathering point, well away from the dangers of fire or responding emergency vehicles.

- 19) Extension cords are to be used for *temporary* use only. When the cords remain plugged in, they become part of the building wiring system. No frayed or spliced appliance cords are permitted because of the danger of a short circuit. All unused openings in the electrical circuit breaker box must be covered to prevent any material from contacting live electrical wires. Child outlet plug protectors are required if you have children under 6 years of age.