

# Home Fire Safety Inspection

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department will provide upon request **free** Home Fire Safety Inspections. The firefighters will check your home and offer fire safety tips and suggestions to safe guard your family from the threat of fire. The fire safety inspection typically lasts less than an hour and is conducted by your neighborhood fire station. An adult must be present during the inspection. A copy of the inspection findings will be given to the resident along with suggestions. A follow-up appointment may also be requested. Our goal in providing this service is to make sure that your home is as free of fire hazards as possible. No fines or citations are issued on residential occupancies rather we simply wish to assist you in making your home fire safe!

To schedule your **free** Home Fire Safety Inspection call 805 681-5500 or visit [www.sbctfire.com](http://www.sbctfire.com) to find the fire station nearest you.

## **Home Fire Safety Inspection may include but not be limited to the following:**

### **General Fire Safety**

Install a smoke detector on each floor of the home

Install smoke detectors outside each bedroom area and inside every bedroom. Test smoke detectors twice per year

Install a carbon monoxide detector in the home if you have gas appliances or a fire place

Install a Class ABC fire extinguisher in the kitchen and garage

Create a fire escape plan and practice it with the entire family

Select a meeting location outside the home for all family members to gather after leaving the home during a fire

Teach family members how to get down low and crawl out of the home to safety

Teach children how to Stop-Drop-Roll should their clothing catch on fire

Teach all family members how to dial 911 for emergencies

### **Exterior Inspection**

Make sure house address is visible from street

Trim trees away from electrical power lines

Trim trees away from house, gutters, roof, sheds, fences, etc

Avoid stacking fire wood next to house

Fire pits should be located a safe distance away from home, always use a metal screen cover and the smoke cannot create a nuisance to your neighbors

### **Heating Equipment**

Keep space heaters a minimum of three feet from drapes, beds, clothing and all combustibles

Avoid using fuel supplied space heaters inside the home

Do not use stove/oven to heat home

Replace air/heat filters monthly

Clean lint from clothes dryer after each use

Install a spark screen in front of the fireplace

Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually

Inspect the spark arrestor on the chimney top

Build small fires in the fireplace using commercially purchased logs or well-seasoned hard woods

Dispose of fireplace ashes in a metal container

Unplug hair dryer, hair straighter, curling iron, etc after use

### **Electrical**

Avoid overloading outlets

Avoid using extension cords in place of permanent wiring

Use UL approved power strips with a circuit breaker

Do not run power cords under rugs or carpet

Maintain air space around electrical equipment such as television, stereo equipment, etc

Breakers that trip often indicate an electrical problem occurring and a qualified electrician should be notified

Use a qualified electrician to install or repair electrical appliances, fans, lights, etc

## **Cooking**

Never leave cooking unattended

Turn pot handles away from stove edge to avoid hot liquid burns

Use proper temperature and cooking time specified for recipe

Keep combustibles away from top of stove

Turn off valve on gas BBQ tank after grilling

Use BBQ grills outdoors away from home

## **Garage**

Allow lawn mower to cool down before storing in garage

Keep combustibles away from gas water heater

Store flammables in approved containers

Carefully store hazardous materials including flammables, lawn chemicals, pool supplies, cleaning products, automotive products, etc. separate from each other

Assure all chemical products are stored in original containers with label intact

Dispose of out of date chemicals by disposing at selected hazardous waste locations

## **Candles & Flame**

Avoid leaving candles unattended

Place candles in sturdy holders with a protective globe

Never leave the home with candles still burning

Keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children