

# FIRE & HOME SAFETY TIPS

## Are You Ready?

Is a series of handouts designed to assist you and your family to plan ahead for emergencies.



For more information on Fire & Home Safety Tips—Check out these Helpful websites:



Washington County  
Emergency Services/  
Emergency Management  
33 W. Washington St.  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
240-313-2930



[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)



[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



[www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)



[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)



# Are You Ready?



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 2005



## In your Home

Take steps to plan ahead for emergencies to protect yourself and your family. Your family needs to know exactly what they should do in an emergency.

## Home Inspection

An inspection of your work area and home will safeguard your area and may prevent a fire disaster. Do not overload your electrical circuits, test smoke/CO detectors and replace batteries, develop and drill an evacuation plan and, remove flammable liquids and materials from areas such as the stove.



## Home Hazard Hunt

In a disaster, ordinary items in the home can cause injury and damage. Anything that can move, fall, break or cause a fire is a potential hazard.

- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections.
- Fasten shelves securely.
- Place large, heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Hang pictures and mirrors away from beds.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Secure water heater. Strap to wall studs.
- Repair cracks in ceilings or foundations.
- Store weed killers, pesticides and flammable products away from heat sources.
- Place oily polishing rags or waste in covered metal cans.
- Clean and repair chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors and gas vents.

## Carbon Monoxide



Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide—a colorless and odorless gas—can be produced from improperly vented furnaces, plugged or cracked chimneys, water heaters, fireplaces, stoves and tailpipes.

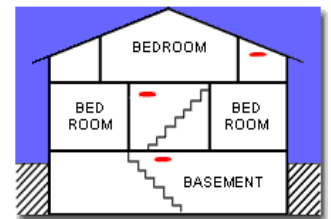
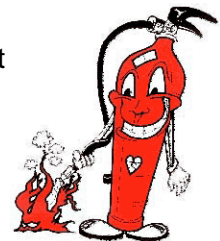
## Fire Safety

- Plan two escape routes out of each room.
- Install smoke detectors. Clean and test smoke detectors once a month.
- Change batteries at least once a year.
- Keep a whistle in each bedroom to awaken household members in case of fire.



- Teach family members to stay low to the ground when escaping from a fire.

- Teach family members never to open doors that are hot. In a fire, feel the bottom of the door with the palm of your hand. If it is hot, do not open the door. Find another way out.
- Check electrical outlets. Do not overload outlets.
- Purchase a fire extinguisher (5lb., A-B-C type).
- Have a collapsible ladder on each upper floor of your house.
- Consider installing home sprinklers.



Install smoke detectors on every level of your home!



## FIRE

If your smoke detector goes off or if you notice a fire, remain calm. Do not try to fight a major fire.