FARMINGTON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT
31455 W. 11 Mile Road • Farmington Hills, MI 48336 • 248-871-2820

Home Fire Safety Self-Survey

Walk through your own home, room by room, and check the items that protect your family. Print this survey, take it with you from room to room, and keep it when you are done - it becomes your fix list.

> **This is an educational self-check, not a code enforcement inspection.** You do not need to send it to the Fire Department. If you find something you cannot fix yourself, use the guidance on the last page.

How to use this survey

1. Check
For each item, mark **OK** if it is already done, **Fix** if it needs attention, or **N/A** if it does not apply to your home.

2. Write it down
Copy every "Fix" item onto Your Fix List on the last page, with what you will do about it.

3. Set a date
Put a date next to each fix and work through the list. Check items off as you finish them.

HOME ADDRESS _____

DATE COMPLETED _____

General - Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Alarms & Escape Plan

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	You have smoke alarms on every level of your home.
☐	☐	☐	You have a smoke alarm in every bedroom.
☐	☐	☐	Smoke alarms are located outside each separate sleeping area.
☐	☐	☐	Smoke alarms are at least 10 feet from all cooking appliances.
☐	☐	☐	Your smoke alarms are interconnected, so when one sounds, they all sound. (Recommended)
☐	☐	☐	Your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old. Check the date on the back of each alarm.
☐	☐	☐	All smoke alarms work and you test them monthly.
☐	☐	☐	If your alarms are not the 10-year sealed lithium-battery type, you replace the batteries every 6 months.
☐	☐	☐	You have a home fire escape plan, including two ways out of each room and an outside meeting place.
☐	☐	☐	Everyone in your home practices the escape plan at least twice a year.
☐	☐	☐	Your house address is visible from the street, day and night.
☐	☐	☐	Windows you would use to escape open easily and are easy to reach.
☐	☐	☐	Security bars, if you have them, have a quick-release device that opens from inside without a key or tool.
☐	☐	☐	You have a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm. At least one on each level is recommended, including outside sleeping areas.
☐	☐	☐	Your CO alarms work and are less than 10 years old.

General - continued

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	You have at least one fire extinguisher, near the kitchen, accessible and not blocked.
☐	☐	☐	You have checked the extinguisher gauge and condition, and you know PASS: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.
☐	☐	☐	Matches and lighters are stored in a locked or secure cabinet, out of reach of children.
☐	☐	☐	You never leave lit candles unattended. Consider LED (flameless) candles as a safer alternative.
☐	☐	☐	Flammable liquids are not stored inside your home in living areas - garage or shed storage only.
☐	☐	☐	Your home is not cluttered with clothes, magazines, newspapers, or other things that can burn.
☐	☐	☐	Stairs and walkways are clear of clothing, electrical cords, and other trip hazards.
☐	☐	☐	Throw rugs have rubber non-skid backing.
☐	☐	☐	Space heaters: you keep 3 feet of clearance on all sides, and you turn them off and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep.
☐	☐	☐	Space heaters are plugged directly into a wall outlet on a dedicated circuit - never into a power strip or extension cord.
☐	☐	☐	Bathroom exhaust fans are cleaned as needed to remove lint and dust build-up.
☐	☐	☐	You handle, charge, store, and dispose of lithium-ion batteries safely. See also Additional Safety Checks on page 4.
☐	☐	☐	You close bedroom doors at night while sleeping. Close Before You Doze.

Kitchen

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	Things that can burn are removed from the stovetop and kept away from burners.
☐	☐	☐	Small appliances are unplugged when not in use.
☐	☐	☐	An adult stays in the kitchen whenever the stovetop is in use.
☐	☐	☐	You wear tight-fitting, short, or rolled-up sleeves when cooking.
☐	☐	☐	If a pan catches fire: slide a lid or cookie sheet on top, turn off the burner, and leave the pan alone until it cools. Never use water, and never carry a burning pan.
☐	☐	☐	Pot handles are turned toward the back of the stove, and you keep a 3-foot child- and pet-free zone around the stove.
☐	☐	☐	Your stovetop, oven, and exhaust hood are clean and free of grease build-up.
☐	☐	☐	You never use the oven to heat your home.

Fireplace & Wood-Burning Stove

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	Your fireplace has a proper screen in place.
☐	☐	☐	Combustible items are kept at least 3 feet from fireplaces and wood-burning stoves.
☐	☐	☐	Your chimney is inspected every year and cleaned as needed.
☐	☐	☐	Ashes are left in place, or placed in a metal container with a lid, for at least 7 days after a fire. Wet ashes down before discarding them, and keep the container outside, away from your home.

Basement, Furnace & Laundry

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	Your workshop area is clean and clear of things that can burn.
☐	☐	☐	Your water heater is set at no higher than 120°F to prevent scalds.
☐	☐	☐	Things that can burn are kept at least 3 feet from the furnace and water heater.
☐	☐	☐	Your furnace is inspected and cleaned every year.
☐	☐	☐	You clean the clothes dryer lint trap after each use.
☐	☐	☐	Your clothes dryer ductwork is cleaned out every year.
☐	☐	☐	Dryer vent pipes have no kinks or damage, and the dryer vents to the outside of your home.
☐	☐	☐	You do not run the clothes dryer while sleeping or away from home.

Garage

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	There is a solid, self-closing door between the garage and your home.
☐	☐	☐	Gas-powered equipment is stored in an outside shed or in the garage - never in living areas.
☐	☐	☐	Gasoline is stored only in an approved safety container, away from ignition sources.
☐	☐	☐	You never leave a vehicle idling in the garage, even with the garage door open. Idling fills the garage with carbon monoxide.
☐	☐	☐	Garage door photo-eye sensors and auto-reverse safety features are aligned, unobstructed, and reverse the door immediately upon beam break or physical contact.

Electrical - first checks

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	Kitchen and bathroom countertop outlets within 6 feet of water have ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection.
☐	☐	☐	Electrical outlets appear to be in good working condition and there is no open electrical wiring exposed.
☐	☐	☐	All outlet and switch faceplates are installed and in good condition.
☐	☐	☐	Your switches appear to be in good working condition.
☐	☐	☐	Lighting fixture canopies are fastened in place, and fixtures appear to be in good condition.
☐	☐	☐	If there are young children in your home, tamper-resistant outlets are installed, or outlet covers are in use.

Electrical - continued

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	Your main electrical service panel is accessible and in good condition.
☐	☐	☐	Your main electrical panel has all circuit breakers labeled, with no empty slots left open.
☐	☐	☐	Extension cords are not used as permanent wiring, and are not run through holes in walls, through doorways or windows, or under carpeting.
☐	☐	☐	No electrical cords are frayed, cracked, or damaged, and outlets and power strips are not overloaded.
☐	☐	☐	You test GFCI outlets monthly using the Test and Reset buttons.
☐	☐	☐	Light bulbs are the correct wattage for the fixture.

Outside the Home

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	Outside electrical outlets are GFCI-protected and appear to be in good working condition.
☐	☐	☐	There is no rubbish, trash, brush, or tree trimmings accumulated on your property.
☐	☐	☐	Your barbecue grill is used only outdoors, at least 10 feet from your home and deck railing.
☐	☐	☐	Your grill is not used under branches, eaves, or any overhang.
☐	☐	☐	Your swimming pool or hot tub is enclosed by a four-sided fence with a self-closing, locked gate.
☐	☐	☐	Propane tanks for grills are stored outdoors and upright, and never in the garage or home. Grill hoses are checked for cracks and leaks.

Additional Safety Checks

OK	Fix	N/A	Check each item
☐	☐	☐	Smoking: If anyone in your home smokes, they smoke outside. Use sturdy, deep ashtrays, soak butts with water before discarding them, and never smoke in bed or when drowsy.
☐	☐	☐	Medical oxygen: No one smokes or uses open flames near oxygen in use. If oxygen is used in your home, post “No Smoking - Oxygen in Use” signs and store cylinders safely.
☐	☐	☐	Anyone who is deaf or hard of hearing has a smoke alarm with a strobe light or bed shaker, and anyone with mobility limits has an escape plan that accounts for the help they will need.
☐	☐	☐	Bedrooms above the first floor have an escape ladder available, and everyone knows how to use it, if this applies to your home.
☐	☐	☐	Candles are kept at least 12 inches from anything that can burn, in sturdy holders, and are blown out when you leave the room or go to sleep. Consider LED (flameless) candles as a safer alternative.
☐	☐	☐	Lithium-ion batteries: Charge devices, including e-bikes and scooters, **with the manufacturer’s charger**, never on a bed, couch, or under a pillow. Stop charging if a battery is hot, swollen, or damaged, and recycle batteries - never throw them in household trash. Do not charge devices overnight or near an exit.
☐	☐	☐	Portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off and tip-over protection, if you use them.
☐	☐	☐	Space heaters are plugged directly into an electrical outlet — **never into an extension cord or power strip**.
☐	☐	☐	If your home has fire sprinklers, sprinkler heads are not blocked, painted, or used to hang items, and the control valve is open and accessible.
☐	☐	☐	Everyone in your home knows to get out, stay out, and call 911 from outside or from a neighbor’s home, and to close doors behind them as they leave.

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Your Fix List

Write down every item you marked “Fix,” what you will do about it, and the date you plan to finish it. Keep this page on your refrigerator until the list is clear.

Item / where in your home	What needs to be done	Fix by (date)

When you finish: Go back through the survey and confirm each fix. Test your smoke and CO alarms again, practice your escape plan with everyone in the home, and repeat this self-survey once a year - a good reminder is when you change your clocks.

In an emergency, call 911.

Get out, stay out, and call 911 from outside or from a neighbor’s home. Close doors behind you as you leave. Never go back inside a burning building.

CPR Training — Learn to Save a Life

The Farmington Hills Fire Department offers CPR training for our community. Learning CPR helps you act quickly in an emergency and gives a family member, neighbor, or co-worker the best chance until help arrives. To register, or for more information, contact FDevents@FHgov.com

Questions? Contact the Farmington Hills Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, at **248-871-2820** - 31455 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. If you are unsure whether something in your home is safe - a damaged cord, a heater, a battery that is hot or swollen - stop using it and ask before you use it again.

Thank you for taking the time to check your home. Most of the items on this survey take only a few minutes, and working alarms, a practiced escape plan, and closed bedroom doors at night give your family the best chance to get out safely if a fire starts.