



# HOME HAZARD HUNT

*Do you believe that your home is a safe place to be?  
Statistics show that most fires, accidents, and injuries occur in the home.*



An important step in family preparedness is the identification of hazards in your home. Once the hazards are identified, it doesn't take much time or effort to make your home a safer place to live.

**Getting Started:** Using the checklist below, involve the whole family, especially your children, in a home hazard hunt. Remember that anything that can move, break, fall, or burn is a potential hazard. Foresight, imagination, and common sense are the only tools you will need! After identifying what needs to be done, devise a plan to do it.

## Kitchen

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wear snug-fitting clothes when cooking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not leave cooking food unattended
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep pan handles turned in while cooking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep cords from dangling
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure outlets near the kitchen sink are GFI (Ground Fault Interrupt) equipped
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep sharp knives out of reach of children

## Smoking and Matches

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Store matches and lighters out of reach of children
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never smoke when drowsy or in bed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispose of ashes and cigarette butts in a metal can at least daily
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check furniture for smoldering cigarettes every night, especially after parties

## Outside

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear dry vegetation and rubbish from around the house
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use barbecue grills away from buildings and vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispose of barbecue briquettes in a metal container
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain a "greenbelt" around rural buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check with the fire department before burning debris or using a burn barrel

## Electricity

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Avoid the use of extension cords (If used, ensure the correct wattage rating)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plug only one heat producing device into an electrical outlet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure cords are not placed under rugs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify circuits are not overloaded
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace damaged cords, plugs, sockets
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps and fixtures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check fuses/circuit breakers for the correct amperage ratings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do no override or bypass fuses or circuit breakers

## All Rooms

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure floor coverings (rugs, carpets) are properly secured to prevent tripping hazards
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Separate draw cords on blinds and drapes to reduce strangulation hazards for kids
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure room exits are unobstructed

## Clothes Washer and Dryer

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify that appliances are properly grounded
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure lint filter is clean and serviceable
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check vent hose and vent line to ensure they are clean and provide unobstructed airflow

**Garage/Attic/Shed**

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use gasoline as a motor fuel only and never use or store it inside the home
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep only a small quantity of gasoline, if necessary, in an approved container locked in the garage or shed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep flammable liquids such as paints and thinners in their original containers and store on or near the ground and away from sources of heat, sparks, or flame
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Store used oily rags in sealed metal containers. Never store combustibles such as newspapers and magazines in your attic.

**Heating Equipment**

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure fireplace inserts and gas/wood stoves comply with local codes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean and inspect chimney annually
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispose ashes in metal container
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep clothes, furnishings, and electrical cords at least 12” from wall heaters and 36” from portable heaters
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Service furnace annually
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Set water heater thermostat at 120F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elevate new or replacement gas water heaters at least 18” above the floor

**Bathrooms**

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Store poisonous cleaning supplies and medicines in “child-proofed” cabinets
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace glass bottles with plastic containers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure all outlets are GFI equipped

**Family Preparedness**

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop an escape plan and practice it regularly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure windows open easily enough for children to open unassisted, if need, for escape route
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designate a family meeting place outside
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have an out-of-state contact for family check after a disaster/emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Store important papers and valuables in a fire proof safe or cabinet
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain proper insurance coverage for your home and its contents (earthquake, flood, renter’s, fire)

**Fire Extinguisher**

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify that an all-purpose fire extinguisher (Class ABC) is maintained in an accessible location
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that all occupants know how to use it
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are additional fire extinguishers kept in the kitchen, garage, basement, and sleeping area?

**Smoke Alarms**

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Installed properly on every level?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tested 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Battery replaced twice a year? (unless 10-yr battery model)

**Earthquake Hazards (All Rooms)**

Yes /No

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bolt heavy, tall upright furniture to wall studs lock or remove rollers on beds, furniture and appliances
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure hanging plants and light fixtures with one or more guy wires to prevent swinging into walls or windows and breaking
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Locate beds away from windows and heavy wall-mounted objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure kitchen and bathroom cabinets with “positive” (self-closing) latches
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure items on shelves with quake mats, Velcro TM, low shelf barrier, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Store heavy and/or breakable items on lower shelves
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strap water heater to wall studs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Use flexible connections on gas appliances
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check chimney for loose bricks and repair as needed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check foundation for cracks and repair as needed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bolt home to foundation to prevent shifting during an earthquake
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure mirrors and pictures to the wall or hang them with heavy wire, looped through eye screws or tongue-in-groove hangers.

***Practice drills are a great way to help your family plan and remember what to do in case of a disaster or emergency***