

## Home Safety Checklists # 1 and # 2



The Home Safety Checklist # 1 is longer at 20 pages and contains survey questions and explanations about most questions. Please read the Home Safety Checklist # 1 before beginning your home inspection to learn about why each question is asked and how it relates to keeping a home safe from accidents and injuries.

The Home Safety Checklist # 2 is shorter at 7 pages and contains the same survey questions as Checklist # 1 but without explanations. Please print the Home Safety Checklist # 2 to use during your walk-around inspection and to report the results of your inspection to your counselor.

<b>Home Safety Checklist # 1</b>			
<b>Checklist # 1 includes texts that explain questions.</b>			
Scout first name and last name (printed):			
Scout signature:		Date of Home Inspection:	
If the answer to a question is "Yes" for your home, check "Yes". Questions answered "Yes" show a safe condition. If the answer to a question is "No" for your home, check "No". Questions answered "No" show opportunities for repairs or changes for better safety. If a question does not apply to your home, check "NA" for "Not Applicable". These Checklists are derived from the Safety Merit Badge pamphlet, 2025 Copyright, 2025 printing, pages 39 through 46.			
<b>General Safety Measures</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are emergency numbers posted next to the landline telephone or entered as contacts in the cellphones of everyone who lives in the home? In most US locations, 911 is the number to call for any fire, medical or police emergency.  <a href="https://www.poison.org/about-poison-control">https://www.poison.org/about-poison-control</a> The toll-free number for national poison control is 800-222-1222.  National mental health hotline If you need emotional support or if you know of someone who does, reach out to the national mental health hotline by calling 988 to the Suicide and			

<p>Crisis Lifeline at 988 Lifeline at <a href="https://988lifeline.org/">https://988lifeline.org/</a> or call the toll-free National Suicide Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) to speak with a trained crisis counselor.</p> <p>If you do not want to talk on the phone, you can also text the Crisis Text Line which offers free mental health support. Text “10-18” or “SCRUBS” to 741741 for help. The call and text lines are open 24 hours a day.</p> <p>Scouts First Helpline (1-844-SCOUTS1, 844-726-8871) is a dedicated 24-hour helpline to receive reports of known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk.</p> <p><a href="https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/scouts-first-helpline/">https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/scouts-first-helpline/</a></p>			
<b>Clothing Safety</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Is clothing worn for housework free from drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills? Loose and draping clothing can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o get caught in machinery, leading to severe injuries or even fatalities.</li> <li>o catch fire near the open flames of a fireplace or gas stove or candle.</li> <li>o can cause a person to trip and fall.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.gpsjobs.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Loose-Clothing.pdf">https://www.gpsjobs.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Loose-Clothing.pdf</a></p>			
<p>Are shoes worn for housework and home repairs in good repair with low heels? Shoes with loose, flapping soles or high heels are hazards for trips and falls. When using a step stool or ladder, shoes or boots with heavy soles like work boots or athletic shoes provide more stability and traction. Going barefoot or wearing flip-flops, sandals, or shoes with smooth leather soles can easily slip on a ladder rung. Steel-toe boots protect your feet from dropped tools or building supplies during construction.</p>			
<b>Fire Safety Measures</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Does your family have a home evacuation plan in case of fire? A home evacuation plan that everyone has learned and practiced is important to home safety.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nfpa.org/downloadable-resources/pdf/how-to-make-a-home-fire-escape-plan">https://www.nfpa.org/downloadable-resources/pdf/how-to-make-a-home-fire-escape-plan</a> <a href="https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prepare-for-fire/home-fire-escape-plans/">https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prepare-for-fire/home-fire-escape-plans/</a></p>			
<p>Are rooms on upper floors equipped with escape ladders for safe exits from windows? Fire Safety Ladders, 3:31 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZJb9ytYmkc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZJb9ytYmkc</a></p>			
<p>Are storage and work areas kept orderly without stacks of loose material and clutter?</p>			

Clutter near furnaces, heaters, stoves, and fireplaces increases the risk of fire. In workshop areas, grinding tools that produce sparks can be a fire hazard if flammable liquids and oily rags are not properly stored. Clutter increases the risks of trips, falls, mice, and insects in a home.			
Is smoking in bed prohibited? Smoking in bed is a major cause of house fires and is the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. Bedding that burns readily and a lit cigarette dropped by a smoker falling asleep creates a dangerous situation. <a href="https://www.jbsa.mil/News/News/Article/2322093/smoking-in-bed-is-the-leading-cause-of-fire-deaths/">https://www.jbsa.mil/News/News/Article/2322093/smoking-in-bed-is-the-leading-cause-of-fire-deaths/</a>			
<b>Matches</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are matches out and cold before they are discarded? Safe ways to extinguish a match are: 1. Plunge it in water 2. Wait for it to stop releasing smoke and place it on a non-flammable surface like an ashtray for it to cool. 3. Feel the temperature of the extinguished match head with the back of your hand. It is cool to touch, break a wooden match or fold a paper match to indicate that it is cold and out. The back of your hand is more sensitive to head than fingertips, a point of reference that also applies to feeling the temperature of a door in a house fire.			
Are matches discarded in household trash? After matches are cool, out, and soaked in water, they should be discarded in household trash, not into recycling bins. into a sink drain, into a toilet, or buried on a camping trip. The probability of a match causing a sewer gas (methane, hydrogen sulfide) fire or explosion is low but not zero. Matches decompose so slowly that they could contribute to sewer line blockage. Match chemicals contaminate water systems.			
Are matches and lighters kept where children cannot reach them? Children playing with fire set more than 20,000 fires every year, leading to about 150 deaths and nearly 1,000 injuries yearly. Children may engage in fire play because they are curious, crying for help, responding to peer pressure, or engaging in delinquent behavior. <a href="https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research/areas-of-research/center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topics/burns/children-playing-with-fire">https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research/areas-of-research/center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topics/burns/children-playing-with-fire</a> Preventing access to matches and lighters, teaching children to report to adults any matches and lighters that they find, and adults closely supervising fire activities can help to prevent home fires and their associated property damage and human tragedies. <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/prevent-children-from-playing-with-lighters-and-matches">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/prevent-children-from-playing-with-lighters-and-matches</a>			

Candles	Yes	No	NA
<p>Are candles placed in stable holders away from children and curtains and flammable decorations such as dried flowers and wreaths?</p> <p>During 2018 to 2022, candles caused 5,910 home fires annually. These fires caused yearly averages of 74 civilian deaths, 558 civilian injuries, and \$257 million in property damage.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/candles">https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/candles</a></p> <p>To burn candle fires more efficiently and safely, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Trim the wick to ¼ inch before lighting because trimming a wick helps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Candles burn more cleanly and produce less smoke and soot. Soot buildup can stain the candle's container and nearby surfaces.</li> <li>○ Candles burn up to 50% longer. Longer wicks burn faster and can create uneven melting, which wastes wax and shortens the candle's life.</li> <li>○ Candles burn with a brighter, clearer flame. Untrimmed wicks can produce dull flames.</li> <li>○ Candles burn more evenly. Long wicks can create "burn pools" and uneven melting.</li> <li>○ To prevent the flame from getting too big, which can be a fire hazard. A flame that is taller than 1 inch can increase the risk of fire.</li> <li>○ To disperse the scent more effectively.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Use a sturdy, heat-resistant candleholder big enough for drips and melted wax.</li> <li>● Keep candles away from children and pets.</li> <li>● Not leave candles burning unattended.</li> <li>● Use flameless candles with tiny LED bulbs engineered to flicker like a flame, powered by a battery, sometimes with an Edison screw base.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://candles.org/fire-safety-candles/">https://candles.org/fire-safety-candles/</a>  <a href="https://germaniainsurance.com/blogs/post/germania-insurance-blog/2022/10/31/are-you-burning-candles-safely-preventing-candle-fires-this-season">https://germaniainsurance.com/blogs/post/germania-insurance-blog/2022/10/31/are-you-burning-candles-safely-preventing-candle-fires-this-season</a></p>			
<p>Are candles carefully extinguished after use, before bedtime, before leaving a room, and before leaving home?</p> <p>Extinguish candles before leaving a room or going to bed. A candle flame burns at 1,800–2,550 °F (1,000–1,400 °C).</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candle">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candle</a></p> <p>Pinching a candle flame will snuff it out but risks burning your fingers, even if they are wet. Using a candle snuffer or a wick dipper is safe and effective. Neither method risks blowing hot melted wax droplets or smoke onto nearby surfaces. You can use a pencil point as a wick dipper to push the wick into the pool of melted wax at its base to smother the flame. Holding a finger an inch or two from the candle flame as you blow a small puff of air at your finger and the flame beyond it uses the principle of vortex shedding so the air flow will both cool the flame and remove its gaseous wax fuel.</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vortex_shedding">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vortex_shedding</a></p>			

	Yes	No	NA
<p><b>Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters</b></p> <p>Are all small gas or oil room heaters, gas water heaters, and wood stoves fitted with vent pipes or flues to carry combustion gases outside the house? Burning natural gas, heating oil, and wood releases harmful chemicals, primarily carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM). Other chemicals include sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). CO replaces oxygen in the blood, causing poisoning. NOx irritates airways and can worsen asthma. PM causes lung, heart, and blood vessel damage, with increased risks of chronic bronchitis, shortness of breath, heart attack, stroke, and abnormal blood clotting. Vent pipes and flues carry these gases and chemicals outside. Yearly inspections and cleaning are important to make sure these pipes and flues are not blocked by animal nests or lint and are not leaking these combustion gases into the house.</p>			
<p>Are gas burners such as water heaters, kitchen stoves, clothes dryers, and house heating furnaces free from leaks and protected from drafts? Any natural gas leaks inside a home is a hazard for an explosion set off by any spark or flame. A gas line might be punctured by a nail during remodeling or might be damaged by moving an appliance. A gas control knob might be open on a stove with no flame on the burner or in the oven. If a strong draft of air blew out a pilot light on an appliance, a thermocouple safety switch should stop the gas flow. Construction crews sometimes accidentally damage gas pipelines with digging machines, causing major leaks and a high risk of explosions.</p> <p>Natural gas and propane companies add mercaptans as odorants to the gases they sell. These chemicals create a “rotten egg” or “rotten cabbage” smell so customers can recognize that gas is leaking. If you smell gas,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Leave immediately: If you are indoors, exit the building as quickly as possible.</li> <li>● Ventilate if safe: While exiting, leave doors and windows open to allow the gas to vent.</li> <li>● Do not operate electronics: Do not turn on or off any lights, appliances, or use any electrical devices.</li> <li>● Do not use phones: Do not use a landline or a cell phone from inside the building.</li> <li>● Move to a safe distance: Walk away from the building and any area where you smell the gas.</li> <li>● Call for help: Once you are a safe distance away, call 9-1-1 and your natural gas utility from a different location.</li> </ul>			
<p>Is an appropriate-size crescent wrench stored near the shutoff valve of the outside gas line?</p>			

<p>With any gas line or gas appliance service, the outside gas line to a home should be turned off before the repair and back on after the repair by a qualified plumber to meet building code requirements. However, in an emergency such as a gas appliance fire or a suspected gas leak when the first step in managing the situation is to evacuate, knowing how to turn off the outside gas line may be valuable, but only if it can be done safely.</p> <p><a href="#">Turning off the Gas to a Residence</a></p>			
<p>Are pressure safety valves on water heaters and water-circulation home heating furnace boilers safety valves checked annually?</p> <p>These valves prevent high temperatures and high pressures from building up inside the water heater tank. They automatically release hot water and steam if the pressure or temperature inside the tank exceeds safe limits. This prevents dangerous hazards like tank ruptures or explosions.</p>			
<p>Is the water heater temperature set to 120 degrees Fahrenheit?</p> <p>At 120 degrees compared to higher temperatures, the risk of serious scalds is reduced and energy efficiency is better. Legionella bacteria, the cause of Legionnaire's disease (a kind of pneumonia) grows well in water between 77°F and 113°F (25°C and 45°C). Setting your water heater at 120°F or higher helps to control their growth.</p>			
<p>Are stoves and space heaters located away from windows to avoid setting fire to curtains?</p> <p>Keep heat sources at least three feet away from curtains and other flammable materials, such as furniture, bedding, and clothing.</p>			
<p>Are supplemental gas and electric space heaters turned off at bedtime?</p> <p>Always place heaters on level, stable surfaces away from foot traffic and turn them off when leaving the room or going to bed. Leaving a heater unattended creates dangers of burns and fires.</p> <p><a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/space-heater-safety">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/space-heater-safety</a>  <a href="https://www.wku.edu/ehs/documents/heating_device_safety.pdf">https://www.wku.edu/ehs/documents/heating_device_safety.pdf</a></p>			
<p>Are wood floors and woodwork near heaters protected from excessive drying?</p> <p>Heaters can dry wood floors and woodwork to cause warping, cracks, and discoloration. Protect these surfaces with insulating or reflective shields and adequate clearance according to manufacturer recommendations and fire safety regulations.</p>			
<b>Wood Stoves and Fireplaces</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Does your family avoid burning unseasoned wood or evergreen wood in your wood stove or fireplace?</p> <p>Green, freshly cut wood contains lots of water and burns with more smoke and less heat than dry (aka seasoned) wood. The water vapor mixes with other gases and particles to create creosote in the chimney. Creosote is a flammable, tar-like substance that can ignite and cause a chimney fire.</p>			

<p>It can take 6–12 months to dry firewood to an ideal moisture content of 15 to 20%. Stacking patterns, summer sun exposure, weather, and the wood species all affect drying time.</p>			
<p>Are wood stove and fireplace chimneys inspected and cleaned once each year? Creosote buildup or a bird's nest stuck in a chimney can lead to a fire that damages the chimney or cause a home fire.</p>			
<p>Does someone open the chimney flue and check airflow before starting every fireplace fire? Opening the flue, whether the fireplace fuel is wood or gas, is important for ventilation of smoke and carbon monoxide to the outdoors. A fireplace has a damper like a door in the chimney to block airflow into and out of the house when there is no fire in the fireplace. Some dampers are in the throat of the chimney near the firebox and are controlled by a lever or rod or a turnscrew. Other dampers are located at the top of the chimney and are controlled by a long chain extended to a hook near the firebox. After opening the damper to prepare for a fire, check the airflow by holding a lit match or piece of paper in the firebox below the damper. If the smoke rises quickly, the flue is open. If the smoke lingers, the flue may not be open or there may be a blockage. Make sure that the flue is open before starting any fire in the firebox.</p>			
<p>Does everyone in the family know to never use any flammable liquids or kerosene to start a fire in a wood stove or fireplace?</p>			
<p>Is every indoor wood stove or fireplace equipped with a proper door or metal fire screen or glass enclosure? Sparks from a fireplace can readily ignite and melt holes in rugs, upholstery, curtains, and clothes. Fireplace screens or enclosures must fit closely to stop flying sparks.</p>			
<p>Are fireplace and wood stove fires extinguished before everyone retires to bed or leaves home? Going to bed or leaving home leaves a fireplace or wood stove fire unattended for hours. A fire or glowing embers, even if enclosed, is a potential hazard for a house fire or from vented gases like carbon monoxide. So, before you go to bed or leave the house, always fully extinguish the fire first, just as if you were managing a campfire.</p>			
<b>Fire Extinguishers and Fire Blankets</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Is a dry chemical Class ABC fire extinguisher or a fire blanket mounted near a door near the stove? Storing a fire extinguisher or a fire blanket in a kitchen places these devices in the most common place where home fires begin. Storing these devices near an exit door will allow someone trying to extinguish a kitchen fire to approach the fire where they will have an unobstructed exit if they cannot control the fire.</p>			

<p>The Knowledge Exchange - Know Your Fire Extinguisher, video 18:15  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkbVC0FnMUU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkbVC0FnMUU</a>  <a href="https://www.osha.gov/etools/evacuation-plans-procedures/emergency-standards/portable-extinguishers/use">https://www.osha.gov/etools/evacuation-plans-procedures/emergency-standards/portable-extinguishers/use</a></p> <p>A fire blanket for home use should meet national standards. These blankets can be used for small stovetop fires, for smothering clothing fires, and for protection from heat and flames as someone exits a burning building.  <a href="https://www.wikihow.com/Use-a-Fire-Blanket">https://www.wikihow.com/Use-a-Fire-Blanket</a>  <a href="https://www.fire.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-04/Fire-Blankets-Information-Sheet.pdf">https://www.fire.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-04/Fire-Blankets-Information-Sheet.pdf</a></p>			
<p>Are fire extinguishers regularly checked for pressure in the green zone?  Regularly check the dial on the fire extinguisher to ensure the needle is still in the green section, showing it is good to use. If it is not, replace it.  Replace or recharge the extinguisher after each use. Many fire extinguishers cannot be cost effectively recharged, so replacement is a better option.  Place at least one extinguisher on each floor, near and for specific fire hazards, such as stove, oven, clothes dryer, garage, and shop.</p>			
<b>Smoke Alarms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Are the smoke alarms in your home installed according to manufacturer's recommendations?  Smoke alarms save lives. Two thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are often mounted on or near the ceiling where heat and smoke will rise in a fire so that the heat and/or smoke sensors in the device will activate early. Install smoke alarms on each level of the home, outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom, following the manufacturer's directions.</p>			
<p>Are smoke alarms tested at least once each month or according to manufacturer's recommendations?  Smoke alarms can stop working without showing signs of failure, so regular testing is necessary to ensure they are working properly. Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the TEST button.</p>			
<p>If a smoke alarm does not operate when tested, is it tested with new batteries and/or replaced immediately?  When batteries run down, the smoke alarm will not sound. Some smoke alarms are "hard wired" into the home electrical system and have no batteries. Replace batteries at least once a year or sooner if they begin to "chirp." Select a specific annual date, such as, daylight savings time clock changing dates, to change the batteries. Note that the battery cannot be replaced in an alarm powered by a 10-year lithium or "long-life" battery; the whole smoke alert unit must be replaced.</p>			
<p>Are your home's smoke alarms less than 10 years old?</p>			

The components inside smoke alarms wear out over time, which adversely affects their operation. Smoke alarms, whether battery powered or hard wired, should be replaced every 10 years.			
<b>Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the CO alarms in your home installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations? CO alarms save lives. CO is an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas. CO is a by-product of combustion of fossil fuels (natural gas, oil, coal), wood, and charcoal. CO gas has the same density as air, so it readily mixes with all the air in a room. Depending on the manufacturer's testing, they may recommend mounting a CO alarm in locations other than on or near the ceiling. Install CO alarms on each level of the home and outside each sleeping area at positions and heights recommended by manufacturers.			
Are CO alarms tested at least once each month or according to the manufacturer's recommendations? CO alarms can stop working without showing signs of failure, so regular testing is necessary to ensure they are working properly. Test CO alarms once a month by pressing the TEST button.			
If a CO alarm fails to operate when tested, is it tested with new batteries and/or replaced immediately? When batteries run down, the CO alarm will not sound. Some CO alarms are "hard wired" or are plug-in devices that have no batteries. Replace batteries at least once a year or sooner if they begin to "chirp." Note that the battery cannot be replaced in an alarm powered by a lithium or "long-life" battery.			
Are your home's CO alarms less than 5 years old? The components inside CO alarms wear out over time, which adversely affects their operation. CO alarms, whether battery-powered or hard wired or plug in, should be replaced every 5 years.			
<b>Stairways and Halls</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Do stairways with three or more steps have strong handrails and slip-resistant finishes? Building codes require that stairs in public places, workplaces, and some private residences have handrails on both sides to allow safe access to everyone, including older people, people with impaired mobility, and people climbing up stairs and walking down stairs at the same time. <a href="https://www.access-board.gov/ada/guides/chapter-5-stairways/">https://www.access-board.gov/ada/guides/chapter-5-stairways/</a> Stair spindles, or balusters, should be no more than 4 inches apart to prevent children from getting stuck or slipping between the spindles.			
Are stairways and halls kept free of boxes, toys, shoes, brooms, tools, and other tripping hazards?			

Keeping stairs clear of objects like shoes, bags, toys, and decorations is crucial to prevent falls. Clutter reduces the clear space for movement, interferes with grip of the feet on the treads and the hands on the handrails, and creates uneven surfaces.			
Are gates placed at the top and bottom of stairs to keep children from falling? Baby gates closing off hallways or doorways can be pressure-mounted, but gates used at the bottom or top of stairs must be hardware-mounted for safety. Pressure-mounted baby gates have a crossbar at the bottom that can be a trip hazard. Gates should always swing out and away from the stairs rather than over them to prevent a child or parent from falling down the stairs when the gate is opened.			
Are there small, loose, or insecurely fastened rugs at the head, foot, or covering stairs or in walkways? Tens of thousands of older Americans are treated yearly in emergency rooms for carpet-related falls. <a href="https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3591732/">https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3591732/</a> Many of these falls are associated with debilitating injuries, such as head trauma with concussions, neck and spine injuries, fractures of wrists, hips, and ankles, as well as strains, sprains, bruises, and lacerations. Sliding throw rugs without non-skid backing and not secured by adhesive tape, rugs with curled edges, and stair carpets not fixed to treads contribute to falls.			
Do stairways and halls have adequate lights, controllable at either end or with motion-activation switches? Safe stair and hall lighting provides adequate, uniform illumination of steps and stair edges without glare are important for everyone, especially older people with reduced vision and mobility. Motion-activated switches allow lighting as needed with control of energy costs.			
<b>Kitchen</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are knives and sharp instruments kept in a special knife drawer or holder, out of the reach of children? One study estimated that 100 knife injuries occurred each day in the US. Children were likely to be injured while playing with knives or during horseplay. Pocketknives were the most frequent cause of injuries, followed by kitchen knives. <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249318232_Knife-Related_Injuries_Treated_in_United_States_Emergency_Departments_1990-2008">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/249318232_Knife-Related_Injuries_Treated_in_United_States_Emergency_Departments_1990-2008</a> Children should be closely supervised by adults as they learn and practice using knives safely. Earning the Scouts BSA Totin' Chip, Cooking Merit Badge, and Woodcarving Merit Badge will advance your knowledge and skills of using knives safely. <a href="https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/totin-chip/">https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/totin-chip/</a>			

<p>Do you manage opened food cans to prevent cuts on the sharp edges of the opened rims and lids?</p> <p>Quick disposal or recycling of metal cans with sharp edges can prevent accidental cuts if children find these for toys or for unsupervised craft projects. After cans are emptied, insert the top into the empty can and press in on opposite sides of the open rim to keep the lid in the can to prevent cuts before placing them in a recycling bin.</p>			
<p>Are bleach, disinfectants, and cleaning products kept out of children's reach?</p> <p>The products can be poisonous to swallow and could cause chemical skin burns in some circumstances.</p>			
<p>Are pan and pot handles turned away from stove edges?</p> <p>Pan and pot handles that children can reach while standing near a stove are a major cause of burns and scalds. While cooking, always turn these handles away from the edges of the stove to protect children and cooks.</p>			
<p>Are spilled grease, water, and bits of food wiped up at once?</p> <p>Spilled grease, water, and food are dangerous hazards for slips and falls and for burns and scalds. As a cook or server carries hot food across a space where a spill has occurred, they can easily slip, even without a fall, and splash hot liquid on themselves or others.</p>			
<p>Are potholders kept within easy reach near the stove and microwave?</p> <p>Potholder pads and mitts prevent burns and spills. In the same category of protective gear are microwaveable bowl holders (cozies). These cozies must be made of 100% cotton without any synthetic fibers, glitter, metallic thread, or glue in the outside cover or in the batting insulation on the inside of the cover. Bowl cozies are popular DIY sewing projects.</p>			
<p>Is a pan lid kept nearby while cooking food by frying?</p> <p>Cooking food by frying can lead to stovetop fires if the cooking grease gets too hot, shown by grease smoke rising from the pan. Sometimes this occurs if the stove setting is set too high. Sometimes this occurs when the cook is distracted. Smoking grease calls for prompt reduction of the cooking temperature setting and possibly moving the pan off the burner</p>			
<p>Are young children not allowed to operate garbage disposals, trash compactors, blenders, or other potentially hazardous appliances?</p> <p>Children should only operate these machines with close adult supervision. Home paper shredders manufactured before 2007 were particularly dangerous, causing hand lacerations and finger amputations. All these appliances should be unplugged when they are not in use and stored where children have no access to them.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/5127.pdf">https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/5127.pdf</a></p>			
<b>Living Room and Dining Room</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is furniture arranged to allow unobstructed passage through each room?			

Furniture blocking a walkway is a hazard for trips and falls. Before bedtime, check furniture placement for orderliness to prevent collisions in the dark. Remove low coffee tables, magazine racks, footrests, and plants from pathways in rooms.			
Is wooden furniture solid, in good repair, and free from splinters and rough spots? A rickety chair with a broken rung or a loose leg invites a collapse as someone sits down. The chair should be removed from service until it can be repaired or replaced.			
<b>Bedrooms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is furniture placed to allow clear passage between the bed and door to avoid collisions in the dark? At least 30" of walkway space will allow relatively easy movement. Wider passages may be needed for people with impaired mobility. <a href="https://www.thisoldhouse.com/home-safety/ada-requirements-for-home-accessibility">https://www.thisoldhouse.com/home-safety/ada-requirements-for-home-accessibility</a>			
Is a light switch or lamp within easy reach from bed? Turning on a light makes walking in any room at night safer, decreasing the risk of falls and stubbed toes, which can take weeks to heal. <a href="https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/24064-stubbed-toe">https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/24064-stubbed-toe</a>			
Is a flashlight and a whistle close to every bed? If power fails during the night, having a flashlight close at hand will make routine trips to the restroom or for safety checks safer. A whistle at each bedside is an emergency signaling device and alarm in case a fire occurs during the night. One element of every family's emergency escape plan is awakening everyone so that they can immediately exit using the safe routes that they have learned and practiced.			
Does a night light illuminate the bedroom, bathroom, hall, and stairs? Motion light switches can save energy and provide safe lighting at night. A flashlight kept at the bedside is an alternative if other lighting is not available.			
Are dresser drawers closed when not in use? Closing dresser drawers, moving laundry baskets, and repositioning out-of-place furniture to clear walkways before retiring to bed for sleep are safety practices that can prevent nighttime falls and injuries.			
Are side rails in place on upper bunk beds to prevent falls? Falls from bunk beds are common injuries, sometimes serious with fractures or head injuries. The Consumer Products Safety Commission has set guidelines for side rails on both sides of the top bunk at least 5 inches above the top of the mattress to reduce the risk of falls. Children less than the age of 6 should not sleep on the top bunk. <a href="https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research/areas-of-research/center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topics/home-safety/bunk-bed-safety">https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research/areas-of-research/center-for-injury-research-and-policy/injury-topics/home-safety/bunk-bed-safety</a>			

Are window screens and storm windows securely fastened? Window screens and storm windows are barriers to children falling from windows and to prowlers looking for an entryway into home. Windows with low sills should have sturdy screens to prevent children from falling out.			
<b>Nursery and Toys</b>			
Are bars on the crib no more than 2 3/8 inches apart so the baby's head cannot slip between them? Are pillows kept out of the crib to prevent smothering? Are sleeping garments and covers placed to avoid danger of smothering or strangling? <a href="#">Crib Safety Tips from the CPSC</a>			
Are thin plastic materials removed at a distance for the crib? Are toys and dolls that have small parts such as eyes or buttons that could be choking hazards removed from toddler play areas? Are toys less than 1 inch in diameter and 2 inches long removed from play areas? Are children taught never to give marbles, jacks, button-sized batteries, and other small toys to children younger than age 3? <a href="#">Toy Safety Tips</a>			
Are all painted toys painted with non-toxic lead-free paint? Lead pain was banned in the US in 1978. The CPSC sets standards for lead paint on toys. <a href="#">CPSC Toy Standards</a>			
Are all houseplants nonpoisonous? <a href="#">15 Poisonous Plants to Keep Away from Kids</a>			
Are children permitted to use only blunt-end scissors? Blunt end scissors reduce the risk of cuts and punctures when children use them and when medical personnel use them to remove bandages.			
<b>Bathroom</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the tub and shower equipped with strong handholds?			
Does the tub floor or shower floor have a nonslip surface?			
Are dangerous chemicals clearly marked, sealed shut in the original container with adhesive tape, and kept out of children's reach?			
Are all medicines out of children's reach and stored in childproof containers?			
Are all cabinets and drawers that contain medications locked?			
Does no one take medicine in the dark without turning lights on and reading labels?			
<b>Attic and Basement</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is the attic ladder or steps strong, solid, and sturdily constructed with handrails?			

Are the attic and/or basement stairways well-lighted?			
Do children keep skates and play gear in specific places and not on stairways or on walkways?			
Are walls and beams free from protruding nails and boards? Rough construction in unfinished rooms, attics, and basements can leave hazardous nails and lumber, particularly in areas like gables with low roof rafters or ceiling joists. A hard hat will protect from scalp lacerations and bruises and leather gloves from nail scratches and splinters.			
Are trash and flammable materials kept in covered metal cans and away from heat sources until their disposal?			
Is wastepaper stored safely until it is recycled or disposed of? Wastepaper and cardboard should be stacked neatly in a box or bag and kept away from the furnace to prevent fire, away from stairs to prevent falls, and away from basement water leaks and seepage to prevent mold and mildew. <a href="https://www.epa.gov/mold/ten-things-you-should-know-about-mold">https://www.epa.gov/mold/ten-things-you-should-know-about-mold</a>			
<b>Workshop and Power Tools</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) readily available in the workspace? Safety goggles or safety glasses for eye protection from dust, sparks, and metal fragments from grinding or cutting, hearing protection, N95 or other masks to prevent inhaling dust, arm guards, work aprons, gloves, and closed toe shoes or boots are important. A full-face mask is important for metal cutting or grinding with a spinning disk. If the disk breaks apart during use, the fragments cause severe facial injuries. Eyewash should be available for first aid for chemical splashes and for dust in the eye.			
Is the workspace well ventilated? Vacuum systems on saws and grinders remove dust as it is formed. Room or space ventilation systems can remove fumes from painting.			
Are electrical tools either grounded with three-wire plugs or clearly marked as double-insulated? A 3-wire cord and 3-prong plug provide a way for stray current in the tool to safely flow to ground, preventing it from passing through a user and potentially causing a shock. Some electrical tools with plastic housings may have double insulation to prevent shocks.			
Is the work area free of clutter? Lumber scraps are hazards for trips and falls and for fire. Oily rags, especially if soaked with linseed oil, are a fire hazard. Linseed Oil and Spontaneous Combustion <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yq6VW-c2Ts">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yq6VW-c2Ts</a>			
Is lighting over the work area adequate? Good lighting allows accurate work with measuring, marking, cutting, and drilling, making using tools safer.			

<p>Are tools and accessories stored in an orderly way and out of the reach of children? Keeping tools well arranged on shelves or hangers prevents damage to the tools from drops and prevents injuries from unintentionally exposed sharp edges and allows efficient use of time during a project.</p>			
<p>Is a push stick used for table saw cuts? A “push stick” is used with table saws to push a board on the tabletop so hands and fingers stay away from the blade as it cuts. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4ZHyZOddI7E">https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4ZHyZOddI7E</a> Some table saws are designed with a sensing system to instantly stop a spinning saw blade if a body part touches the blade during cutting. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-FZWOYAyUM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-FZWOYAyUM</a> Keeping guards and shields on power tools in place and not removed for more convenient use is critical for preventing serious injuries.</p>			
<p>Are electric tools unplugged or have batteries removed when they are not in use and before changing blades, servicing, and repairing? Removing batteries from tools prevents battery drain and corrosion over time. Removing batteries and unplugging tools prevents accidental activation when they are handled or repaired.</p>			
<b>Garage</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Are dangerous products such as antifreeze, insecticides, cleaning fluid, and lubricants kept in the original containers with labels, locked in storage areas, and used according to the manufacturers’ instructions on the containers? Household chemicals can be toxic, flammable, or corrosive. Safe handling requires storing them in original containers away from children, away from heat, and never mixing them. Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials should be stored in special, clearly marked metal containers, away from combustible materials, and out of reach of children. Unwanted paint, chemical, or aerosol containers should be promptly discarded. Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other greasy materials should be stored in closed metal containers to prevent spontaneous heating and combustion. Proper disposal through community programs prevents environmental, health, and fire risks. <a href="https://www.ready.gov/household-chemical-emergencies">https://www.ready.gov/household-chemical-emergencies</a></p>			
<p>Is an area reserved in the garage for bicycles, wagons, and other small vehicles? Unsecured bikes, trikes, and wagons can damage vehicles if they fall over, cause trips and falls, and are subject to damage as vehicles move in and out of a garage. Bike racks, wall hooks, and ceiling systems protect bikes and move them out of harm's way.</p>			

<a href="https://www.garageliving.com/blog/garage-bike-storage">https://www.garageliving.com/blog/garage-bike-storage</a>			
<b>Porch and Yard</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Is a strong, rigid stepladder kept in good repair and stored out of the way? Properly using a proper ladder reduces the risk of falls and injuries when working at heights.</p> <p>Online ladder safety training is available through the American Ladder Institute: <a href="https://www.americanladderinstitute.org/page/LSTVideos">https://www.americanladderinstitute.org/page/LSTVideos</a></p>			
<p>Are railings and banisters sturdy and inspected periodically? Even if a railing is sturdy and strong, sitting on a railing to relax, for a picture, or for a child's unsupervised adventure is dangerous. Falls can cause catastrophic head, spine, and internal injuries.</p>			
<p>Are steps and walkways kept free from ice and snow? Nearly one million people per year fall on snow and ice each year on sidewalks, parking lots, driveways, and stairs. Older adults, particularly older women, are vulnerable, often with serious leg, hip, and arm fractures.</p>			
<p>Are the yard and play spaces free of holes, stones, broken glass, nail-studded boards, tools, and other litter? Construction in the distant past and recent storms can leave behind shards of metal, pipes, glass, lumber, rusted tools, and downed limbs that can wreak havoc on bare feet and playing children. Playground cleanup projects and closed toe shoes are important for safe play whether in a private yard or a public park.</p>			
<p>Are wells, cisterns, and pits kept securely covered? Abandoned wells and cisterns present physical and environmental threats in play and work areas. Missing or dilapidated covers and overgrowth of surrounding brush attract rodents that contaminate water, allow ground water pollution from runoff into the wells, and create serious risks of falls, entrapment, and injuries for unsuspecting humans.</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vp3kD_skNJg&amp;t=23s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vp3kD_skNJg&amp;t=23s</a></p>			
<p>Are low fences brightly painted or marked with cloth strips or tapes to make them clearly visible? Low fences and wire or chains across paths or private driveways are often used as privacy barriers to deter trespassing or unwanted guests. However, these can pose trip, fall, and injury hazards, especially in low light conditions at dawn, dusk, and overnight. Using brightly colored, patterned, or reflective tapes and ribbons tied to fences, chains, and wires can help to make these barriers more visible. Tapes and ribbons can pose risks on their own if they sag, become detached, degrade, and break from weather and sun exposure.</p>			
<p>Are yard waste and toxic materials not burned outside? Open burning is regulated in every state to protect air quality and to protect from wildland fires. Burning yard waste from plant sources, such as fallen leaves and limbs after storms, campfires, and backyard fire pits may be</p>			

legally allowed by some states in some circumstances. Sometimes permits are required. Burning garbage, tires, and synthetic materials is generally prohibited because of toxic fumes that pollute the air.			
Is your lawn mower equipped with proper safeguards? Push and riding lawnmowers are equipped with operator-presence control switches that turn off the engine or the spinning blade if the operator releases a bar on the handle or leaves the seat. Rear foot shields on push mowers block debris ejected from the spinning blade and prevent a foot from slipping under the machine where the blade is spinning. Discharge chute guards block high-speed debris ejections with grass clippings and should not be removed. On riding mowers, to prevent accidents when backing up, a control automatically stops the mower blades when the operator shifts into reverse.			
<b>Pool Safety</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
If your family has a pool or hot tub, is it protected by a fence or other barriers to prevent accidental access by small children? Small children who cannot swim frequently drown in home pools and hot tubs. Adults may drown if they have health conditions that impair mobility or if they are intoxicated with alcohol.			
Are rules posted for family members and guests to follow for safe swimming and floating? Rules for using pools are important to advise about diving, water depth, and never swimming alone.			
Is rescue equipment easily accessible at the poolside? Every household member and guest must know how to use rescue equipment such as lifebuoy rings, rescue tubes, life vests, throw bags, a shepherd's safety hook, and a coiled rope.			
<b>Electrical System</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Does everyone in your home know how to turn off the electrical power to the whole house? With guidance from an experienced adult or a licensed electrician, find the breaker box and learn how to flip the main breaker off, an important skill in an emergency if someone contacts a live wire or if an electrical fire begins or if an electric stovetop or oven fire occurs. Find the breaker box: The breaker box is usually located in a basement, garage, utility closet, or on the outside of your house. It is a large gray or beige box mounted on a wall. Do not stand in water to reach a breaker box because of the risk of shock and electrocution. Check for damage: Before touching anything, look for signs of damage like burn marks or a smell of burning. Turn off the main breaker: To turn off the power to your entire house, flip the			

<p>larger, sometimes double switch at the top of your electrical panel.</p> <p>Understand Your Breaker Box: Electrical Safety, video 0:46  <a href="https://www.esfi.org/understand-your-breaker-box-video-short/">https://www.esfi.org/understand-your-breaker-box-video-short/</a></p> <p>How to turn off your home's electrical power supply, video 1:53  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJ3ky3VSGgQ&amp;t=34s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJ3ky3VSGgQ&amp;t=34s</a></p>			
<p>When switches or outlets are warm to the touch or make crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sounds, are the circuits turned off at the breaker box until repairs are made?</p> <p>Unusually warm switches or outlets or unusual noises from a switch, outlet, appliance, or breaker may indicate arcing, an unsafe condition from a loose or old electrical connection, faulty appliance, or overloaded circuit. Arcing occurs as electricity passes through air from one wire or metal part to another. These arcs are hot and can melt insulation, damage connections, and start fires inside walls or ceilings. If you hear noises or smell burning odors or see sparks or light near wiring connections, immediately stop using the switches, outlet, appliance, or circuit and turn off the breaker that controls that circuit. ASAP contact a licensed electrician to evaluate the problem.</p>			
<p>Do you remove plugs from sockets by pulling on the plug and not the cord? Repeatedly pulling on a cord to remove a plug from a socket can damage or break the wires and insulation where the cord attaches to the plug, creating a hazard for a short circuit or shock. To remove a plug from a socket, pull on the plug, not the cord.</p>			
<p>Are cracked, frayed, or otherwise damaged cords taken out of service and repaired or replaced promptly?</p> <p>Damaged cords may have exposed wires that can be a fire and shock hazard, particularly if they are inadvertently used near water. Do not use damaged cords. Replace the cord or the equipment for safety.</p>			
<p>Are you using the appropriate wattage of incandescent and LED light bulbs in all lamps and light fixtures?</p> <p>The United States and other countries have phased out sales of incandescent bulbs in favor of LED bulbs with higher energy efficiency and longer lifespans. LED bulbs can match the light output of incandescent bulbs by their brightness measured in lumens (not watts) and by their color temperature ratings.</p> <p>LED bulbs also have much higher energy efficiency and longer lifespans than halogen bulbs and operate at much lower temperatures with less risk as a fire hazard.</p> <p>Replace incandescent bulbs and halogen bulbs with LED bulbs of the equivalent brightness and color temperature for the economy and safety. Make sure the new bulb corresponds to the recommended wattage listed on the fixture.</p>			
<p>Are appliances placed where they cannot fall or drop into water?</p>			

<p>Safely place appliances and cords where they have zero chance of falling or dropping into water. If an appliance falls into a sink or tub of water, or if you touch an appliance with wet hands or while standing in water, you risk severe electric shock and possibly death.</p> <p>NEVER use any electric appliances, radios (except small battery-powered ones), TV's, or hair dryers near sinks, toilets or bathtubs. Even if an appliance is turned off, NEVER reach into water to pull it out. First turn off the power source at the breaker box, then unplug the appliance, then remove it from the water. If you have an appliance that has gotten wet, do not use it until a qualified repair person checks it and do not give it away for someone else to use. If the circuit is protected by a GFCI outlet or plug, check and reset the GFCI.</p>			
<p>Do you unplug appliances when a lightning storm is coming?</p> <p>Unplugging appliances, landline telephones, and communication cables before a lightning storm arrives will prevent damage from a direct or indirect lightning strike. Unplugging these cords before a storm is safer than during a storm because of the risk of a nearby lightning strike coinciding with your unplugging activities. Surge protectors on power strips and whole-house surge protectors can protect them from normal power surges in your electrical service but generally do not offer protection to your appliances and devices from a lightning strike because of the overwhelming current load.</p> <p><a href="https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-indoors">https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-indoors</a></p>			
<p>Do you avoid using appliances during lightning storms?</p> <p>Unplug appliances and do not use landline telephones during a lightning storm because a nearby lightning strike could send current through those wires. Cordless and cell phones are safe to use during lightning storms. Do not take a bath or shower during a lightning storm because plumbing and water can carry the current from a lightning strike.</p> <p><a href="https://www.esfi.org/lightning-protection-preventing-a-direct-strike/">https://www.esfi.org/lightning-protection-preventing-a-direct-strike/</a></p>			
<b>Firearms Safety</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Are guns stored unloaded, in locked cases, with trigger locks, magazine locks, and/or cable barrel locks in place?</p>			
<p>Are guns stored in a locked safe and/or in a locked room?</p> <p>If your family is among the 47% of households in the United States that keeps firearms in the home, help make sure all guns are kept secure and inaccessible to those who should not use them, especially children and their friends who visit.</p>			
<p>Are guns and ammunition stored separately?</p> <p>Ammunition should be securely and separately stored to prevent firing accidents as a gun is handled for storage or retrieval or if children handle a gun. Separate storage of guns and ammunition reduces accidental shooting and reduces suicide attempts.</p>			

<p>Do you know what to do if you find a gun?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not touch the gun because it could be loaded, dangerous, and evidence of a crime.</li> <li>Secure the area: If possible and safe to do so, prevent others, especially children, from touching or handling the gun.</li> <li>Call emergency services or your local police: Immediately contact emergency services and explain the situation. Tell them exactly where you found the gun and if you have touched it.</li> <li>Wait for law enforcement to arrive: Do not leave the location until police or other authorities arrive and take possession of the firearm.</li> </ul>			
<b>Prepare for Emergencies</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
<p>Do you know the 911 emergency number and how to use it? Dial 0 if the 911 emergency system is not available in your area. <a href="#">How to 911 Fast Using Emergency Shortcuts on Cellphones</a></p>			
<p>Do you know how to get emergency help for any member of your family? <a href="#">How to make an emergency communications plan for your family</a></p>			
<p>Do you know the location of water, gas, and electric shutoffs for your home? Be sure to check each shutoff at least once a year. <a href="#">How to Shut Off the Utilities to Your House</a>, video</p>			
<p>Do you have a first-aid kit with adequate and current supplies readily available to all family members and does everyone know how to use the supplies and tools in the kit? <a href="#">First Aid Essentials for Your Home and Car</a>, video <a href="#">How to Build a Home First Aid Kit</a>, video</p>			
<p>Do you have emergency water supplies stored in your home in case the primary water supply fails? <a href="#">How to Store Your Own Emergency Supply of Water</a>, video <a href="#">How to Store Drinking Water for an Emergency</a>, video</p>			
<p>Do you have handheld flashlights readily available for emergency use? <a href="#">Using a Flashlight as an Emergency Signal</a>, video <a href="#">Review of Emergency Flashlights</a>, video</p>			

<b>Home Safety Checklist # 2</b>			
<b>Checklist # 2 does not include texts that explain questions.</b>			
Scout first name and last name (printed):			
Scout signature:		Date of Home Inspection:	
<p>If the answer to a question is "Yes" for your home, check "Yes".            Questions answered "Yes" show a safe condition.            If the answer to a question is "No" for your home, check "No".            Questions answered "No" show opportunities for repairs or changes for better safety.            If a question does not apply to your home, check "NA" for "Not Applicable".            These Checklists are derived from Safety Merit Badge pamphlet, 2025 Copyright, 2025 printing, pages 39 through 46.</p>			
<b>General Safety Measures</b>			
<p>Are emergency numbers posted next to the landline telephone or entered as contacts in the cellphones of everyone who lives in the home?            In most US locations, 911 is the number to call for any fire, medical or police emergency.</p> <p><a href="https://www.poison.org/about-poison-control">https://www.poison.org/about-poison-control</a>            The toll-free number for national poison control is 800-222-1222.</p> <p>National mental health hotline            If you need emotional support or if you know of someone who does, reach out to the national mental health hotline by calling 988 to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 Lifeline at <a href="https://988lifeline.org/">https://988lifeline.org/</a> or call the toll-free National Suicide Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) to speak with a trained crisis counselor.            If you do not want to talk on the phone, you can also text the Crisis Text Line which offers free mental health support. Text "10-18" or "SCRUBS" to 741741 for help. The call and text lines are open 24 hours a day.</p> <p>Scouts First Helpline (1-844-SCOUTS1, 844-726-8871) is a dedicated 24-hour helpline to receive reports of known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk.  <a href="https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/scouts-first-helpline/">https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/scouts-first-helpline/</a></p>			
<b>Clothing Safety</b>			
<b>Yes      No      NA</b>			
Is clothing worn for housework free from drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills?			
Are shoes worn for housework and home repairs in good repair with low heels?			

<b>Fire Safety Measures</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Does your family have a home evacuation plan in case of fire?			
Are rooms on upper floors equipped with escape ladders for safe exits from windows?			
Are storage and work areas kept orderly without stacks of loose material and clutter?			
Is smoking in bed prohibited?			
<b>Matches</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are matches out and cold before they are discarded?			
Are matches discarded in household trash?			
Are matches and lighters kept where children cannot reach them?			
<b>Candles</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are candles placed in stable holders away from children and curtains and flammable decorations such as dried flowers and wreaths?			
Are candles carefully extinguished after use, before bedtime, before leaving a room, and before leaving home?			
<b>Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are all small gas or oil room heaters, gas water heaters, and wood stoves fitted with vent pipes or flues to carry combustion gases outside the house?			
Are gas burners such as water heaters, kitchen stoves, clothes dryers, and house heating furnaces free from leaks and protected from drafts?			
Is an appropriate-size crescent wrench stored near the shutoff valve of the outside gas line?			
Are pressure safety valves on water heaters and water-circulation home heating furnace boilers safety valves checked annually?			
Is the water heater temperature set to 120 degrees Fahrenheit?			
Are stoves and space heaters located away from windows to avoid setting fire to curtains?			
Are supplemental gas and electric space heaters turned off at bedtime?			
Are wood floors and woodwork near heaters protected from excessive drying?			
<b>Wood Stoves and Fireplaces</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Does your family avoid burning unseasoned wood or evergreen wood in your wood stove or fireplace?			
Are wood stove and fireplace chimneys inspected and cleaned once each year?			

Does someone open the chimney flue and check airflow before starting every fireplace fire?			
Does everyone in the family know to never use any flammable liquids or kerosene to start a fire in a wood stove or fireplace?			
Is every indoor wood stove or fireplace equipped with a proper door or metal fire screen or glass enclosure?			
Are fireplace and wood stove fires extinguished before everyone retires to bed or leaves home?			
<b>Fire Extinguishers and Fire Blankets</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is a dry chemical Class ABC fire extinguisher or a fire blanket mounted near a door near the stove?			
Are fire extinguishers regularly checked for pressure in the green zone?			
<b>Smoke Alarms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the smoke alarms in your home installed according to manufacturer's recommendations?			
Are smoke alarms tested at least once each month or according to manufacturer's recommendations?			
If a smoke alarm does not operate when tested, is it tested with new batteries and/or replaced immediately?			
Are your home's smoke alarms less than 10 years old?			
<b>Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the CO alarms in your home installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations?			
Are CO alarms tested at least once each month or according to the manufacturer's recommendations?			
If a CO alarm fails to operate when tested, is it tested with new batteries and/or replaced immediately?			
Are your home's CO alarms less than 5 years old?			
<b>Stairways and Halls</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Do stairways with three or more steps have strong handrails and slip-resistant finishes?			
Are stairways and halls kept free of boxes, toys, shoes, brooms, tools, and other tripping hazards?			
Are gates placed at the top and bottom of stairs to keep children from falling?			
Are there small, loose, or insecurely fastened rugs at the head, foot, or covering stairs or in walkways?			

Do stairways and halls have adequate lights, controllable at either end or with motion-activation switches?			
<b>Kitchen</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are knives and sharp instruments kept in a special knife drawer or holder, out of the reach of children?			
Do you manage opened food cans to prevent cuts on the sharp edges of the opened rims and lids?			
Are bleach, disinfectants, and cleaning products kept out of children's reach?			
Are pan and pot handles turned away from stove edges?			
Are spilled grease, water, and bits of food wiped up at once?			
Are potholders kept within easy reach near the stove and microwave?			
Is a pan lid kept nearby while cooking food by frying?			
Are young children not allowed to operate garbage disposals, trash compactors, blenders, or other potentially hazardous appliances?			
<b>Living Room and Dining Room</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is furniture arranged to allow unobstructed passage through each room?			
Is wooden furniture solid, in good repair, and free from splinters and rough spots?			
<b>Bedrooms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is furniture placed to allow clear passage between the bed and door to avoid collisions in the dark?			
Is a light switch or lamp within easy reach from bed?			
Is a flashlight and a whistle close to every bed?			
Does a night light illuminate the bedroom, bathroom, hall, and stairs?			
Are dresser drawers closed when not in use?			
Are side rails in place on upper bunk beds to prevent falls?			
Are window screens and storm windows securely fastened?			
<b>Nursery and Toys</b>			
Are bars on the crib no more than 2 3/8 inches apart so the baby's head cannot slip between them?			
Are pillows kept out of the crib to prevent smothering?			
Are sleeping garments and covers placed to avoid danger of smothering or strangling?			
Are thin plastic materials removed at a distance for the crib?			
Are toys and dolls that have small parts such as eyes or buttons that could be choking hazards removed from toddler play areas?			

Are toys less than 1 inch in diameter and 2 inches long removed from play areas?			
Are children taught never to give marbles, jacks, button-sized batteries, and other small toys to children younger than age 3?			
Are all painted toys painted with non-toxic lead-free paint?			
Are all houseplants nonpoisonous?			
Are children permitted to use only blunt-end scissors?			
<b>Bathroom</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are the tub and shower equipped with strong handholds?			
Does the tub floor or shower floor have a nonslip surface?			
Are dangerous chemicals clearly marked, sealed shut in the original container with adhesive tape, and kept out of children's reach?			
Are all medicines out of children's reach and stored in childproof containers?			
Are all cabinets and drawers that contain medications locked?			
Does no one take medicine in the dark without turning lights on and reading labels?			
<b>Attic and Basement</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is the attic ladder or steps strong, solid, and sturdily constructed with handrails?			
Are the attic and/or basement stairways well-lighted?			
Do children keep skates and play gear in specific places and not on stairways or on walkways?			
Are walls and beams free from protruding nails and boards?			
Are trash and flammable materials kept in covered metal cans and away from heat sources until their disposal?			
Is wastepaper stored safely until it is recycled or disposed of?			
<b>Workshop and Power Tools</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) readily available in the workspace?			
Is the workspace well ventilated?			
Are electrical tools either grounded with three-wire plugs or clearly marked as double-insulated?			
Is the work area free of clutter?			
Is lighting over the work area adequate?			
Are tools and accessories stored in an orderly way and out of the reach of children?			
Is a push stick used for table saw cuts?			
Are electric tools unplugged or have batteries removed when they are not in use and before changing blades, servicing, and repairing?			

<b>Garage</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are dangerous products such as antifreeze, insecticides, cleaning fluid, and lubricants kept in the original containers with labels, locked in storage areas, and used according to the manufacturers' instructions on the containers?			
Is an area reserved in the garage for bicycles, wagons, and other small vehicles?			
<b>Porch and Yard</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Is a strong, rigid stepladder kept in good repair and stored out of the way?			
Are railings and banisters sturdy and inspected periodically?			
Are steps and walkways kept free from ice and snow?			
Are the yard and play spaces free of holes, stones, broken glass, nail-studded boards, tools, and other litter?			
Are wells, cisterns, and pits kept securely covered?			
Are low fences brightly painted or marked with cloth strips or tapes to make them clearly visible?			
Are yard waste and toxic materials not burned outside?			
Is your lawn mower equipped with proper safeguards?			
<b>Pool Safety</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
If your family has a pool or hot tub, is it protected by a fence or other barriers to prevent accidental access by small children?			
Are rules posted for family members and guests to follow for safe swimming and floating?			
Is rescue equipment easily accessible at the poolside?			
<b>Electrical System</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Does everyone in your home know how to turn off the electrical power to the whole house?			
When switches or outlets are warm to the touch or make crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sounds, are the circuits turned off at the breaker box until repairs are made?			
Do you remove plugs from sockets by pulling on the plug and not the cord?			
Are cracked, frayed, or otherwise damaged cords taken out of service and repaired or replaced promptly?			
Are you using the appropriate wattage of incandescent and LED light bulbs in all lamps and light fixtures?			
Are appliances placed where they cannot fall or drop into water?			
Do you unplug appliances when a lightning storm is coming?			

Do you avoid using appliances during lightning storms?			
<b>Firearms Safety</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Are guns stored unloaded, in locked cases, with trigger locks, magazine locks, and/or cable barrel locks in place?			
Are guns stored in a locked safe and/or in a locked room?			
Are guns and ammunition stored separately?			
Do you know what to do if you find a gun?			
<b>Prepare for Emergencies</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>
Do you know the 911 emergency number and how to use it?			
Do you know how to get emergency help for any member of your family?			
Do you know the location of water, gas, and electric shutoffs for your home?			
Do you have a first-aid kit with adequate and current supplies readily available to all family members and does everyone know how to use the supplies and tools in the kit?			
Do you have emergency water supplies stored in your home in case the primary water supply fails?			
Do you have handheld flashlights readily available for emergency use?			