

Fire Safety Checklist

For People with Special Needs

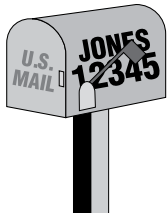
More than 3,000 Americans die each year in fires. The Santa Clara County Fire Department encourages you to help protect yourself and your family from the dangers of fire by following this safety checklist.



Special Considerations



- Depending on physical limitations, assistance may be needed from a family member, caregiver or neighbor to prepare for emergencies.
- Decreased mobility, health, sight and hearing may limit the ability to take the quick action necessary to escape during a fire, so planning ahead is vital to staying safe.



Be Prepared & Create an Escape Plan

In the event of fire, every second counts! Make and practice a home escape plan. Talk with your family members, building manager, or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice it.

- Arrange to have a first floor unit or bedroom if you live in an apartment building or multi-story home.
- Make sure that your house number is clearly visible from the street using at least 4" high numbers.
- Maintain at least two exits from every room and know how to open locked or barred doors and windows.
- Contact your local fire department. They can provide a courtesy home inspection, review your escape plan, install smoke alarms and assist with locating home safety modification services if needed.



- If you encounter smoke, stay near the ground or crawl low to exit. Once out, stay out and call 911 from a neighbor's house. If you are trapped, close door between you and the fire. Fill gaps around the door to keep smoke out and signal out the window using a blanket or sheet.
- Use stairs to evacuate. Never use an elevator during a fire unless instructed by the fire department. If necessary, install a ramp in place of stairs for emergency exits.



Santa Clara County Fire Department

A California Fire Protection District serving
Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino,
Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, and Saratoga

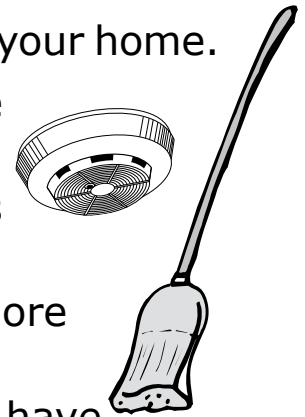
408.378.4010

www.sccfd.org

Install & Maintain Smoke Alarms

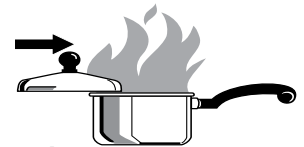
Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Working smoke alarms increase your chances of surviving a fire by 50%

- Install smoke alarms in all bedrooms and on each level of your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly. For hard to reach units, use a broom handle or stick to press the test button.
- Replace batteries once a year. Use daylight savings time as a reminder, change your clocks... change your batteries.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Smoke alarms more than 10 years old have a failure rate of 30-50%.
- If you are hearing impaired, install smoke alarms that have the vibrating feature or strobe light. For more information about specialized smoke alarms, contact your local fire department.



Cooking & Electrical Safety

- When cooking, cuff sleeves and turn pot handles in to avoid burn injuries.
- Never leave cooking unattended. Use a timer or carry a hot pad to remind you of food cooking on the stove or in the oven.
- To extinguish a cooking fire, slide a lid or cookie sheet over pan and turn off burner.
- Electrical fires are a common cause of home fires. Do not overload outlets and only use extension cords with built-in surge protectors.



Additional Resources

2-1-1 by United Way Santa Clara County.....**2-1-1****www.211scc.org**

Provides access to critical health and human services 24-hours per day in multiple languages.

Aging & Adult Services County of Santa Clara ...**408.975.4899** **www.sccgov.org**

In-home support services for older citizens (65 and older) and persons with disabilities.

California Telephone Access Program**800.806.1191** **www.ddtp.org**

Offers services and adaptive equipment for those with hearing, vision, mobility or speech impairments.

Council on Aging Silicon Valley.....**408.296.8290** **www.careaccess.org**

Provides referral services to local agencies who serve seniors, adults with disabilities and caregivers.

Prepare Now County of Santa Clara**408.247.1126 x302** **www.preparenow.org**

Assists vulnerable populations in all levels of emergency preparedness and response.

Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley.....**408.578.9519** **www.rebuildingtogether-sv.org**

Provides home modifications to improve safety, accessibility and mobility for lower income homeowners.

United States Fire Administration USFA.....**800.561.3356****www.usfa.dhs.gov**

Fire safety information for citizens to learn how to better protect themselves and their homes from fire.