



## HOME SAFETY REMINDERS

- Smoke detectors must be operational and located on every level of your home, even if that level is not being used for childcare.
- Electrical outlets must be covered.
- Fire extinguisher must be a 2A10BC or larger and needs to be serviced annually.
- Furnace and hot water heater must be inaccessible to children.
- There must be a protective guard around fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters or steam radiators if used during child care hours.
- All combustibles, i.e., wood, paper, plastic, cardboard, clothes, paints, etc. must be kept 18 inches or more away from furnace and hot water heater. If the manufacturer instructions indicated that a combustible item can be a shorter distance away, then the provider may follow those instructions.
- Stairways of three or more steps must have handrails and be free of clutter and obstruction.
- There must be two means of escape from each room of the residence used for sleeping children. One must be a stairway or door leading to the floor of exit discharge. The other must be a door or window leading directly outside. To be approved as a second means of escape, windows must have a net clear opening of 5.7 sq. feet (this requires a minimum of 20" in width and a minimum of 24" in height, and the window sill height shall be not more than 44" above the floor. (Note: Using both minimum figures will not obtain the required area). The 5.7 sq. ft. opening is a child care Rule Requirement, and it is not necessarily required by your local building code. If you are having an egress window installed and plan to use this area for your child care operation, be sure it meets the child care Rule Requirements.
- Extension cords cannot be used as a substitute for permanent wiring, i.e., garage door openers, large appliances, aquariums, etc. They cannot be affixed to structures and cannot be extended through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings.
- Paneling - processed wood paneling must meet a Class C or Class 3 flame spread rating, and you must be able to verify this. If you cannot provide verification to your licensor, it must be either removed or treated with a special flame spread rated paint. There are flame guard additives available to add to paint. Check with your local paint store.
- Exposed plastic vapor barriers, i.e., the plastic over insulation in unfinished basements, must have a flame spread rating of 200 or less. Documentation of this rating is required. Foam insulation must be covered with gypsum board (sheetrock.) Paperbacked insulation cannot be covered with flame spread rated plastic. It must be removed or covered with gypsum board.
- If you have an attached garage, there must be a tight-fitting solid wood bonded core door at least 1-3/8" thick or have a fire rating of 20 minutes or greater.



## FIRE & STORM DRILLS



- Must be done monthly

- Write down the date and time of each fire/storm drill
- Set off the smoke detector during each drill

Suggestions for conducting drills:

- Children need to practice exiting from different areas within the house and gathering at their meeting place
- Rotate time of drills to allow all enrolled children to participate in drills.

■ You must have a fully operational:

- battery operated radio or television
- working flashlight



## FIRE & SMOKE DETECTORS

- Smoke detectors should be tested monthly during fire drills
- Smoke detectors should be kept clean and replaced at least every 10 years.
- Carbon monoxide detectors are required as of August 1, 2008 in all homes. They must be located within 10 feet of every sleeping room.



## OTHER

- Toxic items must be kept above counter level (preferably 5' high) or higher or secured by approved locks in order to be considered "inaccessible to children."
- Poison Control Number: 1-800-222-1222  
website: [www.mnpoison.org](http://www.mnpoison.org) (for non-emergency information)
- Water temperature cannot exceed **120°**.
  - Some providers have installed faucets with "hot limit safety stop" features, or have used mixer valves as a method to control their water temperature. Check with your local Home Depot, Menard's or Lowe's for availability.