Home Fire Prevention

- Develop and practice a fire escape route. Establish two escape routes.
- Install smoke detectors and keep fire extinguishers on every level of your home.
- Keep all lighters, matches and chemicals out of reach of children.
- Teach children not to play in the kitchen. Turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- Never leave a burning candle or cigarette unattended.
- Clean lint from your dryer screen before each use. Do not run the dryer while sleeping.
- Keep all flammable materials away from a stove, fireplace or furnace.
- Keep portable heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not plug in more than one appliance or extension cord into each outlet.
Carbon Monoxide

The Gilroy Fire Department recommends installing at least one carbon monoxide detector with an audible alarm near bedrooms. If your home has more than one story, a detector should be placed on each story. Carbon monoxide is a by product of combustion of fossil fuels such as fumes from cars, appliances, fireplaces and wood burning stoves. Carbon monoxide usually is vented to the outside if appliances function correctly and the home is vented properly. The following is a checklist for where to look for problem sources of carbon monoxide in the home:

- A forced air furnace is frequently the source of leaks and should be carefully inspected.
- Check furnace connections to flue pipes and venting systems for signs of corrosion, rust gaps or holes.
- Check furnace filters for dirt or blockage.
- Check forced air fans for proper installation.
- Check all venting systems for cracks, corrosion, holes, debris or blockage.
- Check all other appliances in the home that use flammable fuels such as natural gas, oil, propane, wood or kerosene.
- Be sure space heaters are vented properly if they use kerosene or other flammable fuel.
- Barbecue grills should never be used indoors.
- Check for closed, blocked, or bent flues, soot and debris.
- Check the clothes dryer vent opening outside the house for lint.
Earthquake Safety Checklist

Earthquakes occur suddenly, violently and without warning. Advance planning and recognizing potential hazards can reduce the risk of serious injury or death.

- Secure the water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the ground.
- Acquire a wrench that fits gas and water valves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass and china in a low, closed cabinet with latches.
- Fasten and secure bookcases, shelves and other top heavy furniture. Secure TV's and electronics so they cannot fall off shelves.
- Position beds away from windows and top heavy furniture.
- Store enough drinking water as well as dry and canned food for a minimum of three days per person.
- Keep a first aid kit, a non electric can opener, flashlight and portable battery operated radio with extra batteries on hand.
- Attend First Aid and CPR courses.
- Safe places during an earthquake are under sturdy furniture, door frames or against an inside wall. Keep away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, pictures or where heavy furniture could fall.
- Ensure all family members know how to respond after an earthquake.
- Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1 for the police and fire department.
Pool Safety

Unfortunately, just a few seconds is all it takes for a child to drown. Most children drown in their own backyard swimming pool, but others drown in buckets, bathtubs, toilets, dog water bowls, canals and ponds. Small children are top heavy and do not have the upper body strength to lift themselves out of one of these dangerous situations. Drowning or near drowning can be prevented by following these useful tips:

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Use an approved barrier to separate the pool from the house.
- Never allowed children to be alone near a pool or any water source.
- Keep ladders away from pool fences.
- Do not allow children to play around the pool and store all toys outside the pool area.
- If you leave the pool area, take the children with you.
- Always have a "designated child watcher".
- Learn to swim.
- Never swim alone, or while under the influence of alcohol or medications.
- Never swim when thunder or lightning is present.
- Never dive into unfamiliar or shallow bodies of water.

Gilroy Fire Department
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