



911 N 65th Avenue
Ridgefield, WA 98642

phone: 360.887.4609 **fax:** 360.887.0862 **web:** www.clarkfr.org

Fire Safety Checklist

Interior

General

- Working smoke alarms are installed on every level of your home and near each sleeping area. Alarms are tested every month and the batteries are replaced at least once a year.
- Home fire escape plans are practiced regularly.
- All family members are trained and ready to protect themselves with Stop, Drop, and Roll in the event that their clothes catch on fire.
- If someone in your household smokes, deep sturdy ashtrays on stable surfaces are used and ashes are soaked in water before disposal.
- Matches and lighters are stored out of reach of children.
- Candles are kept out of reach of children and pets. They are burned in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down. Candles are never left burning unattended.
- Space heaters are at least three feet away from anything that can burn. This includes clothing, decorations, paper, animals, and people.

Kitchen

- Appliances are clean and in good working condition.
- A fully charged fire extinguisher is kept in the kitchen.
- Baking soda is kept handy to extinguish stovetop grease fires. **Never put water on a grease fire.** Water will splatter the grease and dramatically increase the size of the fire.
- Handles of pots and pans containing hot liquids are turned inward and kept away from the front of the stove.
- Flammable objects including potholders, dishtowels, and curtains are kept at least three feet (one meter) from the stove.
- Flammable liquids are properly stored in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights.
- Items cooking on your stove or in your oven are never left unattended.



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- Appliances (i.e. toaster, coffee maker, mixer) are turned off and unplugged after you are finished using them. Electrical circuits are not overloaded.
- A “kid-free” zone of three feet around the stove is enforced.

Living Room

- Fireplace chimneys and flues are cleaned and inspected at least once a year.
- A sturdy screen to catch sparks is installed on the fireplace.
- Ashes are doused with water and then placed in a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Ashes are kept outside your home and away from anything that can burn for several days before they are disposed of.
- Electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed have been repaired or replaced.
- Outlets, sockets, and extension cords are not over overloaded or worn down. Extension cords are not set under rugs or carpets; they are not looped over nails or other sharp objects that could cause them to tear. Sockets are covered with childproof fittings.
- There is clearance around televisions and stereos to allow proper ventilation that will prevent overheating.
- Lamps and other lighting fixtures have bulbs with proper wattage.

Bedroom

- Electric blankets and other electric appliances are turned off and unplugged when not in use.
- Residents do not smoke in bed.
- Electric cords are not trapped against walls where heat can build up.
- Bedding, clothes, curtains and other materials that can burn are at least three feet away from space heaters.
- Mattresses made before the 2007 Federal Mattress Flammability Standards were enacted are replaced. Mattresses made since 2007 are required by law to be safer.



Bathroom

- Hot appliances, such as curling and flat irons, are unplugged when not in use. They are stored in a safe location until cool.
- Flammable items, such as towels, are away from heaters.

Garage

- A fully charged fire extinguisher is mounted in the garage.
- A shovel, hoe, rake, and buckets are readily available for use in a wildfire emergency.
- A solid door with self-closing hinges is installed between living areas and the garage.
- A metal container is available for disposing oily rags.
- All materials that can burn are stored away from ignition sources such as water heaters.
- All electrical tools and appliances are turned off and unplugged when not in use.

Disaster Preparedness

- A three-day supply of food and drinking water is available for each family member.
- A portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns, and batteries are kept handy.
- A first aid kit is fully stocked and available.
- A list of valuables has been made and valuables are stored together for easy access and removal.
- A contingency plan has been made to enable family member to contact each other.

Exterior

Roof

- Tree branches touching or overhanging the roof, or those within 10 feet of the chimney have been removed.
- Home has a metal, tile, or composition roof.
- All dead leaves and needles have been cleaned from the roof and gutters.
- Chimney outlet and stovepipe are covered with a non-flammable screen of ½ inch or smaller mesh.



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Landscape

- A “defensible space” has been created by modifying flammable vegetation to a distance of at least 75 feet around all structures.
- On steep slopes, flammable vegetation has been modified out to a distance of 100 feet or more.
- Trees and shrubs are at least 10 feet apart.
- All plants are maintained regularly by removing dead branches, leaves, and needles.

Yard

- Woodpiles are stacked at least 30 feet from all structures and flammable vegetation is cleared away within 10 feet of woodpiles
- LPG tanks (butane and propane) are located at least 30 feet from any structure, on the same elevation as the home, and surrounded with 10 feet of clearance.
- All construction materials and debris are removed from the yard.

Access

- Flammable vegetation is cleared at least 10 feet from roads and 5 feet from driveways.
- Overhanging tree branches above roads and driveways are removed.
- House address is visible and readable at the beginning of the driveway, or on the house if easily visible from the road.
- Driveway is accessible to fire vehicles.