



Nashua Fire Rescue

Fire Marshal's Office

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Residential Fire Safety Awareness

Nashua Fire Rescue is conducting a Residential Fire Safety Awareness Program to help keep you and your family safe from fire and other emergencies. Almost all fires and accidents are preventable. Most fatal fires occur in one and two-family homes. Please take the time to plan a home escape plan for you and your family.

Please contact the Nashua Fire Marshal's Office at 589-3460 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Smoke Detectors:

- Smoke detectors should be properly located and be fully operational.
- Smoke detectors over 10 years old need to be replaced.
- The best choice for replacement detectors is AC powered with a battery backup power supply.
- Smoke detectors should be interconnected. This is required in renovations or new construction.
- Photoelectric or ionization smoke detectors may be used. Photoelectric detectors are less likely to cause false alarms from sources that emit large numbers of very small particles (Sources such as this include cooking and bathrooms).
- We recommend installation of smoke detectors in all sleeping areas. This is required in renovations or new construction.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors:

- Carbon monoxide detectors are required when potential carbon monoxide sources are present in the home.
- Outside each separate dwelling unit sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms. Combination Smoke/CO alarms are recommended.
- On every level of a dwelling unit, including basements.
[Carbon Monoxide Detection in Dwellings](#)

Home Escape Plans:

- Families should have a home escape plan. The protection factor provided by smoke detectors assumes that there is a home escape plan in place.
- Families might consider an escape ladder where second floor windows are far above ground level. The ladders should only be used by adults or older children as a last resort.

Escape Windows:

- Windows in bedrooms and living areas should open easily to allow a second means of escape.
- Family members should be familiar with the method of removing windows if this feature is provided.
- [Egress Window Size Requirements](#)

Heating Appliances:

- Your heating system should be properly maintained. You may wish to contact your heating contractor for recommended service.
- Three feet of clearance around the heating appliances should be free of combustible storage.
- Wood stoves and solid fuel burning appliances must be properly installed and maintained. Ashes should be placed in a metal container with a lid (Ashes can be hot up to 72 hours).
- Portable heating appliances require at least three feet of clearance from combustible materials. The manufacturer's operating instructions must be followed for safe operation, particularly with fuel fired portable heaters. Major and heat generating appliances must directly connect to a wall outlet without the use of extension cords, power strip, and or adapters of any kind. (Refer to manufacturer's specifications).

Electrical:

- Most homes are wired with 14 gauge wire which calls for a 15 amp fuse or breaker.
- The electrical panel should be accessible at all times. A clear area of at least 3 feet is required around the panel.
- No missing blanks in the panel.
- All electrical outlets, switches and junction boxes shall have covers.
- Extension cords may not be used in place of permanent wiring. If items are used on a permanent basis, permanent wiring should be installed by a licensed electrician with the proper permits from the Building Department (589-3080). Power strips cannot be used to connect to another power strip or extension cord(s). Power strips/Surge protectors should not exceed the maximum amps listed on the back of the unit.

Grill Use:

- Add hyperlink

General Storage:

- Storage of combustible goods should not produce conditions which will increase the likelihood or severity of a fire.
- Storage should be arranged so as not to obstruct the exits in your home.

Hazardous Materials:

- Flammable liquids should be stored in suitable containers away from heating and electrical appliances.
- Propane for gas grills should never be stored inside your home. The Nashua landfill accepts empty gas grill cylinders from Nashua residents. There is **NO** curbside pickup for gas cylinders.
- All hazardous chemicals should be stored safely and kept away from children.
- Household hazardous waste collections are conducted at the Nashua Public Works Garage on specified dates. City of Nashua Solid Waste Dept. at 589-3410.

Portable Fire Extinguishers:

- Portable fire extinguishers for the home are recommended. Recommend a 3A-20BC or 5 lb. ABC fire extinguisher. This will extinguish most types of fire. Recommended locations would be in the kitchen or near the exit.
- If you have or intend to purchase a fire extinguisher, be sure to read the instructions before you need to use it.

- It is more important to leave your home and contact the fire department than to fight the fire yourself. Only attempt to extinguish a fire if it is very small. You can escape if it is too much to handle and you know how to use the extinguisher.

Building Identification:

- House number (Minimum of four inches) visible from the street with contrasting colors.