



## San Miguel Fire District Voluntary Home Fire Safety Inspection Program

The San Miguel Fire District offers free Voluntary **Home Fire Safety Inspections!** The inspection will check both the exterior and interior of your home and offer fire safety tips and suggestions to safeguard your family from the threat of fire. The inspection typically lasts 40-45 minutes and an adult must be present during the inspection. No fines or citations are issued on residential occupancies. We simply wish to assist you in making your home fire safe.

To schedule an appointment please contact Fire Inspector Natalie Grimes at (619) 660-5357 or email [ngrimes@smgfire.org](mailto:ngrimes@smgfire.org).

The Voluntary Home Fire Safety Inspection may include but not be limited to the following.

### Exterior Inspection

- \_\_\_ Make house number visible from street (mailbox and house).
- \_\_\_ Trim trees close to electrical wires (professional tree service).
- \_\_\_ Trim trees away from house gutters, roofs, sheds, fences, etc.
- \_\_\_ Firewood next to house (should be kept 30 feet from house).
- \_\_\_ Fire pits should be located a safe distance away from home and always use a metal screen cover. Check to see if restrictions are in place.
- \_\_\_ Maintain property entrance to allow for fire truck access.
- \_\_\_ Clear flammable vegetation 50 feet from the area immediately surrounding home.
- \_\_\_ Create a fuel reduction zone in the remaining 50 feet (or to property line). Depending on the steepness of your property and the vegetation, distance shall be measured on a horizontal plane.
- \_\_\_ Create spacing between plants which improves the chance of stopping a wildfire before it reaches your home.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eliminate vertical “fire ladder” under large trees.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove all build-up of needles and leaves from your roof and gutters. Keep tree limbs trimmed at least 10 feet from any chimneys and remove dead limbs that hang over your home or garage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Place a mesh screen over your chimney outlet of not more than 1/2 inch mesh.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove climbing vines or shrubbery next to the house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove flammable mulch next to the house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Replace any section of wood fence touching house.

## **Interior Fire Safety**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Install a smoke detector on each floor of the home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install smoke detectors outside each bedroom area and inside every bedroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Test smoke detectors twice per year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install a carbon monoxide detector in the home if you have gas appliances or a fireplace.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Add a Class ABC fire extinguisher in the kitchen, garage or any home location with where flame is present. Inspect twice per year.

## **Heating Equipment**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Move space heaters that are closer than 3 feet from drapes, beds, clothing or other combustibles.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove fuel supplied space heaters from inside the home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do not use stove/oven to heat home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clean or replace air/heat filters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is lint present in the clothes dryer, is it cleaned after each use?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install a spark screen in front of fireplace.

- \_\_\_ Is the spark arrestor and chimney inspected annually?
- \_\_\_ Are fireplace ashes disposed of properly?
- \_\_\_ Are hair dryer, hair straighter, curling iron, etc., left plugged in after use?

## **Electrical**

- \_\_\_ Are outlets overloaded?
- \_\_\_ Excessive use of extension cords.
- \_\_\_ Are power strips used in chain (piggy-backing)?
- \_\_\_ Are power cords under rugs or carpet?
- \_\_\_ Is extension cord gauge for appliances sized properly?
- \_\_\_ Increase air space around electrical equipment such as television, stereo equipment, etc.
- \_\_\_ Excessive breaker tripping. Call a qualified electrician.
- \_\_\_ Use a qualified electrician to install or repair electrical appliances, fans, lights, etc.

## **Reminders**

### **For Your Home:**

- Check you smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors every month.
- Create a fire escape plan & practice with the entire family.
- Select a meeting location outside the home for all family members to gather after evacuating the home during a fire or other emergency.
- Does your family know the first rule in fire emergencies? GET EVERYONE OUT FAST AND DON'T GO BACK INSIDE!
- Never leaving candles unattended.
- Place candles in sturdy holders with a protective globe.

- Never leave the home with candles still burning.
- Keep lighters & matches out of the reach of children.
- Teach family members how to get down low and crawl out of the home to safety.
- Teach children how to Stop-Drop-Roll should their clothing catch on fire.

### **For Your Yard:**

- When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.
- Allow lawn mower to cool down before storing in garage.
- All dried grass cuttings, tree trimmings and weeds should be removed from your property.

### **Cooking:**

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Turn pot handles away from stove edge to avoid hot liquid burns.
- Use proper temperature and cooking time specified for recipe.
- Keep combustibles away from top of stove.
- Grill outdoors away from home.
- Turn off valve on gas tank after grilling outdoors.

### **Garage:**

- Keep combustibles away from gas water heater.
- Keep paint in tightly closed metal containers.

- Store flammables in approved marked containers.
- Keep oily rags in a tightly sealed metal container.
- Carefully store hazardous materials including flammables, lawn chemicals, pool supplies, cleaning products, automotive products, etc., separated from each other. Keep in original clearly marked containers.
- Assure all chemical products are stored in original containers with readable original labels.
- Dispose of out-of-date chemicals at appropriate hazardous waste locations.