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Safety Reminders

Fire Safety Checklist

Smoke Detectors

- Install and check smoke detectors once a month and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Install them on every level of your home, including one in every bedroom and outside each sleeping area.

Fire Extinguishers

- Install a fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen and know how to use it.

Fire Escape Plan

- Make sure you have a safe fire escape method for all situations. Have an escape plan that includes two ways out of each room and a meeting place outside the home. Practice this plan with your family.
- Add emergency numbers in your phone contacts list.
- Make sure windows can be opened easily and screens and storm windows can be removed from the inside. If your bedrooms are on the second floor, provide folding escape ladders.

Spring/Summer Storm Checklist

Estimating Distance

- Because light travels much faster than sound, lightning flashes can be seen long before the resulting thunder is heard.
- Estimate the number of miles you are from a thunderstorm by counting the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the next thunder, divide this number by five.
- If you can hear thunder, lightning can be hazardous to you and your home.

Outdoor Preparation

- Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture.
- Take light weight objects inside.

Indoor Preparation

- Draw blinds and shades over windows.
- Unplug and avoid using electrical appliances and televisions.
- Avoid bathtubs, showers, and any other running water.
- Learn how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.
- Keep disaster supplies on hand.

Winter Storm Checklist

- Candles and matches or lantern
- Flashlight and batteries
- Fill propane tank or buy charcoal for outdoor grills
- Battery operated radio
- First aid kit
- Containers of bottled water
- Non-perishable food to last a few days, manual can opener

Safety Reminders

- Check or install a fire extinguisher in your kitchen.
- Test your windows to ensure you have an emergency exit.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Ensure safety screens are installed in front of fireplaces.