



## COMOX FIRE RESCUE HOME FIRE AND GENERAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

### FIRE SAFETY

- Install and test smoke detectors & carbon monoxide detectors as recommended.
- Change smoke alarm batteries every year unless they have a long-life battery. Replace smoke alarms every ten years.
- Prepare a fire escape plan and practice drills with the entire family.
- Keep furniture, curtains, dish towels, and flammable materials at least three feet from any heat source.
- Use a fireproof and waterproof safe for your valuables.
- Place fire extinguishers in the home; inspect and learn how to use them as recommended.
- Assemble a disaster kit, store it in a safe place and refill it every 6 months if needed.
- Place an escape ladder near any window or balcony above ground level.
- Place fire starter items in a safe place and away from open flames such as lighters, stovetops, and candles.
- Store chemicals and flammables safely, away from open flames and out of reach of children. Read all labels before using them and become familiar with warnings and safe disposal recommendations.

### FIRE SAFETY

- Replace damaged electrical cords and repair appliances that smell, smoke or overheat.
- Plan your escape by making a home escape plan and hold regular fire drills so everyone in your home knows what to do in a fire.
- Never leave cooking unattended, and keep cooking areas clean and uncluttered.

### EXTERIOR HOME FIRE SAFETY

- Regularly remove and dispose of logs, needles, and twigs, which spread fire.
- Keep firewood and debris piles at least 10 metres (30 feet) and never downslope from any structures.
- Remove accumulated debris from below slotted deck surfaces.
- Clear over-hanging branches, needles and other combustibles from the roof.
- Ensure you have installed your street address number in a visible location from the street and it contrasts with your home exterior finish.

## GAS

- Clean and inspect gas appliances as manufacturers recommend.

### **Follow gas leak warning steps if you smell gas or rotten eggs**

- Do NOT turn anything on or off that has a power source.
- Leave the home immediately.
- Call 911 once you are outside, not from the home telephone.

## PLUMBING & WATER

- Look for signs of water damage in the attic, basement, and crawl spaces.
- Check faucets, bibs, toilets, hose bibs, and shutoff valves for leaks.
- Check the sprinkler system for leaks.
- Clean and inspect your dehumidifier.
- Set the water temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for burn prevention. Use child safety or anti-scald devices on hot water faucets where needed.
- Have a professional check your water pressure and look for signs of leaks or poorly conditioned pipes.
- Never pour chemicals down the drain. Dispose of chemicals as recommended on the label.
- Don't pour grease down the drain. Allow it to cool in a heat-tolerant container, then throw it in the trash.

## GARAGE

- Store tools and sharp equipment properly to prevent injury.
- Place all chemicals and gasoline away from open flames. Drain equipment when not in use. Clean spills immediately.
- Use safety control buttons to lock equipment. Inspect equipment for proper function and loose parts.
- Store ladders away from children's reach.
- Store items that may be harmful to children, such as batteries, small items, cords, or hose.

### **Include the garage in your home's alarm monitoring system**

- Use the lock on your garage door opener to prevent other remotes from opening it.
- Consider installing a garage door opener cover to keep small children from opening the door.

### **Practice car safety in the garage**

- Keep valuables and harmful products out of the car such as medicines, firearms, and choking hazards.
- Keep the car locked while in the garage to keep small children out of it.
- Keep car keys stored in a safe place, out of the reach of children.
- Hide extra keys to your car and home in the garage or give them to a trusted family member or neighbor.

## GROUND & STRUCTURE

- Inspect windows, doors, walls, and foundations for cracks or damage.
- Inspect and repair the attic for water damage, electrical damage, and loose wires. Insulate where needed for energy savings.
- Eliminate standing water from your property to avoid attracting unwanted bugs and animals.
- Trim bushes, shrubs, and trees regularly.
- Remove leaves, debris, and roots from gutters, vents, and outdoor heating and air conditioning units.
- Call professionals for pest and termite control.
- Install a fence with a locking gate around swimming pools.
- Inspect and repair decks, stairs, railings, roof, chimney, downspouts, drains, gutters, and flashing.
- Inspect the basement and crawl spaces for water damage, mold, and mildew.