

Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services Risk Management

Subject: Fire Safety

What is it?

The risk of death or injury from fire is even greater for people with physical, mental or sensory disabilities than the general population due to their special needs

What risk does it present?

People with disabilities should be more cautious because of physical limitations and a decreased ability to react in an emergency.

People with disabilities may ignore their special fire safety needs. In some cases people with disabilities may need the help of a caregiver to practice proper fire safety precautions

How is it managed?

- See attached Voluntary Fire Safety Evaluation for ideas on fire prevention in the home
- A plan for the safe disposal of smoking materials
- Safety assessment for activities of daily living such as the use of candles, meal preparation, appliances such as clothes dryers and heating equipment

Where and to whom does this apply?

- This applies to all individuals living independently, or in a private family home

Where can I find additional help?

- Unites States Fire administration
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/disability/>

Fire Safety Checklist for Individuals Living Independently or with Families

Describe the Apartment or Home:				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
1. Windows open easily				
2. There are two ways to exit the house and individuals can use the exits				
3. Exits are free of storage, trash or other obstructions				
4. The fire escape is clear of heat producing equipment such as BBQ grill, and other objects i.e.chairs				
5. Steps are clear and in good repair with sturdy handrails Individuals can navigate them				
6. Hallways are clear of any obstructions, such as storage boxes, bicycles, furniture and trash				
7. Rooms are free of trash and clutter				
8. Smoke Detectors are operational (recommend monthly testing)				
9. Carbon Monoxide detectors present and operational				
10.Individuals can demonstrate disposal of smoking materials				
11. Individuals can demonstrate emptying lint filter after each load				
12. Individual has knowledge of emergency phone numbers at easy reference or on speed dial.				
13. There are no combustibles on the premises, such as gasoline, BBQ fluid, lighter fluid				
14. Individual can demonstrate knowledge of the exits				
15. Electrical cords are in good repair				
16. Electrical outlets and extension cords are used safely,				
17. Fire place if used is in good condition with a fire guard				
18. All heating equipment is free of paper, clothing, boxes, trash				..
19. Space heaters are not used				
20. Flashlight is in working order				
21. Candles are not used unless battery operated				
22. Stove is free of potential combustibles (paper, cloth,				
23. There is adequate heat and a comfortable temperature				