



Green Brook CERT Safety Corner

Volume 2



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<https://www.ready.gov/cert>

CERT: Community Emergency Response Team, assists our local first responders in cases of emergencies. We might be called for various tasks such as, traffic assistance, sheltering or search & rescue. CERT members go through an extensive 12 training course. All training and supplies are provided free and include the following subjects:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Disaster Medical Operations
- Fire Suppression
- Light Search and Rescue Operations
- CERT Operations / Incident Command System
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism Awareness
- Disaster Simulation

Home Safety Checklist

- **Cordless Window Coverings:** Loose cords can strangle children in an instant. Switch out all corded blinds and curtains for cordless versions. If this is cost prohibitive or not possible, make sure all cords are stored out of children's reach and without loops or knots.
- **Smoke Detectors:** Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms outside every bedroom, as well as on every level of your home (including the basement) and in furnace areas. Buy dual alarms that use long-life lithium batteries. Test your smoke alarms at least once per month to make sure they're working properly and replace the batteries every year.
- **Extension Cords:** No cords, including extension cords, should run across doorways or under rugs. If you're using an extension cord as a permanent fixture, consider having new electrical outlets installed.
- **Outlet Safety:** Once a month, do a hand-check on all outlets; if they're warm, call your electrician. At all times, make sure you stay within manufacturer recommendations for maximum wattage per outlet, and never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- **Sweep Your Chimney:** Schedule an annual flue and chimney sweep (inspection and cleaning) before firing up your first logs. And while we're on that topic, only burn dry or seasoned wood, which produces less creosote (soot) – a fire hazard.
- **Water Heater Safety:** Your water heater should be set for a maximum 120° to prevent burns (especially if you have children). Always keep flammable or combustible materials (including household chemicals and aerosol cans) away from your hot water heater.

Here are easy ways to secure your home

- [Secure the doors](#)
- [Lock the windows](#)
- [Light up the landscape](#)
- [Set up a security system](#)
- [Don't forget the garage](#)
- [Lock down your Wi-Fi network](#)
- [Eliminate hiding places](#)
- [Add security cameras](#)
- [Get a safe](#)
- [Use home automation](#)
- Get to know your neighbors
- Get a dog

Home Safety Checklist

- Fire Extinguishers: You should have a fire extinguisher in at least the kitchen and on every floor of your home. Replace extinguishers as directed by the manufacturer.
- Escape Route: Establish a plan of escape in the event of fire. You should map out at least two exit routes, and should purchase a rescue ladder if your home is multi-level. Practice your escape plan at least twice per year, with at least one time at night.
- Emergency Numbers: Compile a list of emergency phone numbers, from the local police and fire departments to who to call in case of emergency. Print several versions to post throughout your home (at least one per floor).
- Pool Safety: If you have a pool (or any source of water on your property), surround it or block access with a 4-foot fence. The access gate should open out, and should close automatically (without slamming shut) and employ a self-latch system that positioned out of reach of little hands.
- Poison Control: Keep all poisonous chemicals and other products behind locked doors. Additionally, controlled substances like alcohol and tobacco should be kept in a locked cabinet.
- Babyproofing and Childproofing: Keeping your home safe for a baby or young child is essential. Learn more about [baby proofing](#) and [childproofing \(for toddlers+\)](#).

