



Colleton County Fire – Rescue

Residential Fire Safety Inspection

Following a residential inspection and installation, complete the front and rear of this form and return to the Fire Marshal’s office.

Occupant Name: _____

Date of Install: _____

Address: _____

Run Number: _____

Shift: _____

Contact Number(s): _____

Detector Number(s): _____

- A Public Service Function run number should be obtained from dispatch on all installations.
- It is recommended that all homes have at least 2 smoke detectors. Occupants should be advised and encouraged to have 2 installed. Use your judgment to install more than one detector.
- The “Smoke Detector Installation and Home Fire Safety Inspection Liability Waiver” shall be signed by the occupant prior to the smoke detector install.
- Refer to Colleton County Fire-Rescue Directive 1.65 “Smoke Detector Installations” and the User’s Manual supplied with the smoke detector for installation instructions.
- South Carolina Statue Section 5-25-1330 (A) states *“The owner of a dwelling is responsible for supplying and installing smoke detectors in rental dwellings and housing and shall provide the tenant at the time the tenant takes possession of the dwelling written or verbal instructions, or both, for testing the smoke detectors and replacing batteries in battery-powered detectors.”* However, Section 5-25-1330 (D) states *“No obligation is created hereby for the owner to provide batteries for battery-powered detectors allowed under Section 5-25-1320.”*
 - If the location is found to be a rental property, do NOT install a smoke detector
 - Explain to the occupant the above state statue and explain that it will be turned over to the county Fire Marshal to follow up
- Explain to the occupant that along with the smoke detector installation, a courtesy home fire inspection is to be conducted. This is strictly a courtesy and, unless requested, there will be no follow up re-inspection of the location. There will not be fines or summons for non-rental property owners.
- The reverse side of this page has a home fire inspection list and should be used to conduct the courtesy inspection. If any question is answered “No,” the occupant should be advised and given an explanation of the code violation and suggest ways to remedy the issue.
- This form with both sides completed shall be returned to the Fire Marshal’s office in a timely fashion.

Employee(s) completing installation: _____

Print name and include unit number

Yes No

Doors / Exits

	Can all primary exterior exit doors, windows used as a secondary means of escape, and any security bars incorporated with these primary and secondary means of escape, be opened from the inside without the use of a key, tool or special knowledge (security code, combination, etc.)?
	Does each sleeping area have two (2) exits? Including one (1) that leads directly to the exterior of the building?
	Are the closet doors equipped so that a child can open the door from the inside?
	If the bathroom door(s) is equipped with a lock, can the door be unlocked from the outside during an emergency?
	Can all bedrooms and/or living areas above the first floor be accessed by a standard set of stairs?
	Bedroom windows are accessible and not blocked by a headboard or any other piece of furniture?

Extinguishers

	Is there an operable dry chemical fire extinguisher available for use in the kitchen? Does it appear to be in good condition?
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Electrical

	Are there any extension cords being used as permanent wiring?
	Are all power strips being used UL listed and have a resettable circuit breaker?
	Are all multi-plug wall adapters UL listed and have a resettable circuit breaker?
	All wiring is contained within insulation and is free from any nicks, scrapes or breaks?
	All receptacles (outlets and switches) have cover plates and are correctly installed?
	Breaker panels are in good order and there are blank covers in any unused breaker slots?

Heating Units / Combustibles

	All gas fired heating units are ventilated properly?
	Gas water heater has the pilot light cover plate properly installed
	All combustible materials are stored in excess of 3 feet from any gas fired heating unit
	Are heaters, including wood burning or gas log fireplaces, equipped with immovable screens or barriers to prevent contact with open flames or hot surfaces?
	Are gas appliances (heaters, water heaters, stoves, etc.) equipped with metal tubing and metal connectors?
	Are all flammable/combustible liquids stored away from possible ignition sources and have a tight fitting lid?
	The clothes dryer is vented properly and is there adequate housekeeping in, under and behind the unit?
	Are all lighters and matches kept out of the reach of children?

Address

	Is the address to the residence in accordance to the county ordinance? <i>"Residential address shall be in 4" letters on a contrasting background placed on the front of the structure unless the structure is more than 50' from the roadway in which case the posted address shall be placed at the roadway."</i>
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Comments:



COLLETON COUNTY FIRE – RESCUE

Smoke Detector Installation and Home Fire Safety Inspection Liability Waiver

Name and Address of Occupant:

I am the owner/occupant of the property located at the above address, and have authority to sign this agreement and to authorize the installation of the smoke detector(s). I do hereby willingly authorize Colleton County Fire – Rescue and its agents/employees to install smoke detectors and batteries where appropriate. I have received and read the manufacturers written instructions on the use and maintenance of the smoke detector(s). I understand the instructions and will follow them. I specifically agree to replace smoke detector batteries (provided by me) as stated in the manufacturer’s instructions and to keep all smoke detectors and other safety products provided in good working condition. The smoke detector and battery was installed on the date listed below and was verified to be in good working condition.

I further understand and agree that the installation of the smoke detector(s) do not guarantee prevention of fire related or burn injuries. I expressly agree that neither Colleton County Fire – Rescue nor its agents/employees be held liable or responsible for any injury, damage or other problems resulting from the use of this information or defects in material, workmanship, or designs of the smoke detector(s), batteries, or other devices supplied.

Additionally, in consideration of the voluntary performance of a home fire safety inspection of my home located at the address listed above, I, on behalf of myself, and all members of my family, as well as my heirs, executors, administrators or successors, hereby waive any claim or cause of action of any nature that I have, or in the future may have, against any and all individuals or organizational participants in the home fire safety inspection, including, but not limited to, Colleton County and Colleton County Fire – Rescue and its officers, agents or employees, which claim or case of action grows out of or results from a fire or other damage, following the said home fire safety inspection; and I further hereby agree to release and hold harmless any and all organizational and individual participants including the aforesaid entities in the home fire safety inspection from and against all damages of any kind, to person or property, growing out of or resulting from a fire in my referenced home.

I acknowledge having read, understood, and agreed to the above waiver, and release.

_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Witness (Print Name)	Signature	Date

* This form generally indicates that the occupant or owner of the property agrees to waive his or her rights to sue any individual and any other organizations or individuals involved in the fire safety inspection of this home, if a fire occurs after the inspection. The purpose of the waiver is to protect the individual or any of the organizations involved against liability arising from the home fire inspection. This statement is intended for information only, the terms of the waiver themselves shall prevail if there are any questions. You should seek advice if you do not understand this waiver.



Home Fire Prevention & Safety Tips

Colleton County Fire - Rescue

113 Mable T. Willis Blvd

Walterboro, SC 29488

843-539-1960

www.colletonfire.com

Smoke Detectors

- ___ Install smoke detectors on each level of your home and near each sleeping area.
- ___ Test your smoke detectors once per month
- ___ Replace smoke detector batteries every 6 months
- ___ Replace smoke detectors every 10 years
- ___ Install a carbon monoxide detector if you have any gas appliances or wood burning stoves

Heating Equipment & Fireplace

- ___ Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from all combustibles
- ___ Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually
- ___ Dispose of ashes in a metal container
- ___ Keep combustibles and clutter away from water heater
- ___ Clean lint from behind clothes dryer

In Your Kitchen

- ___ Never leave cooking unattended
- ___ Turn pot handles inward when cooking
- ___ Keep cooking area free of clutter
- ___ Keep clothing away from burners or open flames
- ___ Maintain appliances free from grease build-up

Throughout Your Home

- ___ Matches and lighters are stored in a secure cabinet
- ___ Fireplace has proper screen and hearth
- ___ Ensure curling irons and hot rollers are unplugged after each use
- ___ Ensure your water heater is set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to prevent scalds and burns
- ___ Extinguish candles before going to sleep
- ___ Candles are only burned in sturdy, non-tip and non-combustible holders
- ___ The home is not cluttered with clothes, magazines, newspapers and other items that can burn

Flammable Liquids

- ___ Gas powered equipment should not be stored inside
- ___ Gasoline, Kerosene, etc should be stored in an approved safety can and stored in an outside shed separate from the house
- ___ Allow for proper ventilation when using flammable liquids
- ___ Put oily rags in metal containers with tight-fitting lids, not in a pile where they can spontaneously ignite
- ___ Keep newspapers, empty boxes, paints & gasoline cans away from pilot lights, heaters and outlets

Electrical

- ___ Extension cords should not be used as permanent wiring and should not run through walls, be attached to walls or ran under carpeting
- ___ Avoid overloading electrical circuits
- ___ Maintain adequate air flow around electrical appliances
- ___ Ensure light switches and outlets are in good working order
- ___ Every outlet and light switch should have a faceplate

Emergency Preparedness

- ___ Create and practice a home escape plan
- ___ If you use a wheelchair or walking aid, check each possible exit route carefully
- ___ Windows and doors open easily from the inside and not blocked by furniture, security bars, or nailed/painted shut

Fire Extinguishers

- ___ Purchase a multipurpose (ABC) extinguisher
- ___ Practice using the extinguisher (Use the P.A.S.S. method)
- ___ Inspect extinguishers annually

Bedroom and Before You Go to Bed

- ___ Have 2 ways to exit from your bedroom (door & window)
- ___ Never smoke in bed
- ___ Turn off heating pad
- ___ Unplug coffee pot
- ___ Fully extinguish smoking materials
- ___ Turn off oven and burners
- ___ Things to keep close to your bed: Flashlight with fresh batteries, a whistle to warn others, eyeglasses, house and car keys

Exterior

- ___ Address numbers are at least 4 inches in height, in a contrasting color and clearly visible from the road
- ___ Have trees trimmed away from power lines and chimneys and remove all pine needles and leaves from roofs, eaves & gutters
- ___ Firewood is stacked at least 10 feet from your home
- ___ Ensure the exterior of your house is clear of trash, dead grass and shrubs
- ___ Ensure when barbecuing you are at least 3 feet from the house when cooking. Never use charcoal grills inside or on a wooden deck or porch
- ___ Dispose of ashes and coals in a metal containers
- ___ Porch lights are working and provide adequate lighting
- ___ Outside stairs are stable and have sturdy handrails

**For more information or additional resources,
visit Colleton County Fire - Rescue on-line at www.colletonfire.com**