

# Home Safety Evaluation



**South Jordan City Fire Department**  
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The South Jordan City Fire Department suggests you use this checklist to spot possible safety problems that may be present in your home. Check YES or NO to answer each question. Then go back over the list and take action to correct those items that may need attention.

1	Front Entry	Yes	No
1.1	Is address visible from street? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having the address visible from the street helps emergency responders find your home in an emergency.</li> </ul>		
1.2	Is front path 36" wide? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a clear, wide path to your door prevents tripping hazards and allows access for wheelchairs.</li> </ul>		
1.3	Is path smooth and free of debris? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path should not have any broken sections, and should be maintained so there are no tripping hazards.</li> </ul>		
1.4	Is ramp safe? (If necessary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramps should have at least 12" of length for every 1" it has to climb. (Ex. A ramp that climbs 10 in. should be 10 ft. long)</li> <li>Mount guardrails along the side of the ramp. Put them about 18 inches from the ramp floor. This rail will help keep people and wheelchairs safely on the ramp.</li> <li>Install edging along the floor of the ramp so no one will slide off. The edging should be 2 inches high.</li> <li>Put handrails on both sides of the ramp. Use wood. Metal could be hard to hold in winter. Handrails should extend at least 12 inches beyond the ramp at both ends.</li> </ul>		
1.5	Handrail up front steps? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handrail should be mounted 34" from the ground.</li> <li>Handrail should be able to support 250 lbs.</li> <li>Handrail should extend 12" beyond bottom and top step to allow you to get on and off the bottom and top steps.</li> </ul>		
1.6	Steps have non-slip surface? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In winter, snow and ice should be cleared to prevent slipping.</li> </ul>		
1.7	5'x5' open space inside and outside the front door? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a clear area on both sides of doors allows easy passage through entry ways.</li> </ul>		

2	Security	Yes	No
2.1	<p>Is the front porch visible from the street and well lit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being visible from the street, day or night, deters criminals from approaching your doorstep.</li> </ul>		
2.2	<p>Have motion sensing lights?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion sensing lights are a good way to deter criminals, and to alert the homeowner of possible mischievous activity.</li> <li>• Motion sensing lights guarantee that the light will be on for you when you arrive home late at night and aren't near a switch.</li> </ul>		
2.3	<p>Have single cylinder deadbolts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double cylinder deadbolts need a key to open from the inside and are not safe in the event of an emergency, where quick exit from the home is necessary. Single cylinder deadbolts require a key on the outside, but are easily opened from the inside.</li> </ul>		
2.4	<p>Have a peephole?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peepholes allow you to see who is at your door while maintaining the safety of having a locked door between you.</li> </ul>		
2.5	<p>Is the mailbox secure?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As identity theft is a prevalent problem in this day and age, mailboxes should have locks on them with a slot for the mail carrier to put new mail in.</li> </ul>		
2.6	<p>Have window locks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Windows with screw locks will help prevent someone from breaking into your home more than the window's basic latch.</li> </ul>		
2.7	<p>Have a home security system?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you can afford a home security system, homeowner and emergency responders alike can be alerted to a problem simultaneously.</li> </ul>		

3	Rooms/Hallways/Stairs	Yes	No
3.1	All area rugs removed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area rugs are a tripping hazard, and should be removed.</li> </ul>		
3.2	Are stair treads 10” deep and 36” wide? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having deep and wide enough treads allows sure footing when climbing stairs.</li> </ul>		
3.3	Do stairways have a handrail? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stairways should have handrails on either side.</li> <li>• Handrails should be rounded and 1¼” thick.</li> <li>• Handrails should be able to support 250 lbs.</li> </ul>		
3.4	Are staircases well lit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper lighting helps you see the stairs clearly.</li> </ul>		
3.5	Are there light switches at the top and bottom of each staircase? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having switches at the top and bottom ensure that you will always have appropriate lighting when climbing stairs.</li> </ul>		
3.6	Are hallways well lit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properly lit hallways allow you to walk safely through your home.</li> </ul>		
3.7	Use nightlights for places walked at night? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nightlights aren’t just for kids! Having a nightlight where you walk at night can help you avoid the chance of falling.</li> </ul>		

4	Fire Protection	Yes	No
4.1	Are carbon monoxide alarms properly placed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon monoxide alarms should be on each floor, near gas appliances, and near fire places.</li> </ul>		
4.2	Smoke detectors properly placed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoke detectors are designed to wake you when you are asleep, so they should be placed on each floor in hallways near bedrooms and in bedrooms.</li> </ul>		
4.3	Smoke detectors mounted properly? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't put detectors within six inches of where walls and ceilings meet, or near heating and cooling ducts. Detectors located in these areas may not receive the flow of smoke required to activate the alarm.</li> </ul>		
4.4	Change smoke detector batteries regularly? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoke detector batteries should be changed twice a year.</li> </ul>		
4.5	Test detectors once a month? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors once a month.</li> </ul>		
4.6	Fire extinguishers in proper places? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire extinguishers should be in garage, kitchen, on each floor, and near fireplaces.</li> </ul>		
4.7	Have a fire escape plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You should have a fire escape plan that has been coordinated with everyone in the residence, and that you have practiced together.</li> <li>• A good way to practice is to have one person set off the smoke detector at night and make sure everyone follows the plan.</li> </ul>		
4.8	Is there a second means of egress from second story rooms? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the regular exits from the second story of your home are blocked, you will need secondary means of egress such as a fire escape ladder.</li> </ul>		

<b>5</b>	<b>Bathrooms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
5.1	Can bathroom door be unlocked from outside? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being able to unlock the bathroom door from outside allows people to come in and help you if you fall.</li> </ul>		
5.2	Does bathroom door open out? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bathroom door needs to open out in case you fall or collapse behind the door, so help can get through.</li> </ul>		
5.3	Does the floor have a non-slip surface? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The bathroom can be a slippery place so any place you step when you get out of the shower should have a non-slip surface.</li> </ul>		
5.4	Is there a phone in the bathroom? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70% of all home accidents occur in the bathroom, and so it is a good idea to have a telephone there so you can call for help if you get stuck in there.</li> </ul>		
5.5	Have a place to sit in the tub? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a place to sit in the tub is handy if your legs get too tired to stand. It also prevents slipping accidents.</li> </ul>		
5.6	Have grab bars as needed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your grab bar's diameter should be 1¼ inches to 1½ inches.</li> <li>The amount of space you leave between the grab bar and the wall should be 1½".</li> </ul>		
5.7	Shower has a non-slip surface? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95% of hip fractures are caused by falls. Having a non-slip surface on your shower floor will prevent falls.</li> </ul>		
5.8	Shower head and sink have anti-scald device? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's not hard to get burned in the bathroom. It only takes a few seconds - and about 130 degrees.</li> <li>Set device so it takes action at 115 degrees.</li> </ul>		

<b>6</b>	<b>Appliances</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
6.1	Is furnace filter clean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a clean furnace filter allows more complete combustion, making your appliance more efficient and preventing problems with carbon monoxide.</li> </ul>		
6.2	Is there 36" of clearance around furnace, water heater, and electrical panel? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having proper clearance around appliances prevents fire/carbon monoxide hazards.</li> <li>In the event of an emergency, responders will need to have easy access to these areas.</li> </ul>		
6.3	Is water heater secured? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water heaters should be secured with two straps.</li> </ul>		
6.4	Is water heater temperature adjusted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most water heaters are set at 140 degrees, which is way too hot. It should be set at 120 degrees to prevent scalding.</li> </ul>		

<b>7</b>	<b>Garage</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
7.1	Have a garage door opener? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be a garage door opener in homeowner's vehicle.</li> </ul>		
7.2	Flammable liquids in safe containers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flammable liquids must be stored in well ventilated area, in garage or outside the residence.</li> <li>• Flammable liquids should be stored away from combustibles.</li> <li>• Maximum residential storage of flammable liquids (gasoline and white gas) is limited to 25 gallons; preferably stored in an unattached garage or shed. Of this 25 gallon total, no more than 10 gallons can be stored in an attached garage.</li> </ul>		
7.3	Are there guards on power tools? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All power tools should have safety guards on them according to manufacturer's instructions.</li> </ul>		

<b>8</b>	<b>Doors</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
8.1	Are doorways 32" wide? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If doorways are too narrow, wheelchair use is restricted. This could apply to the homeowner, or anyone that visits in a wheelchair.</li> </ul>		
8.2	Are thresholds ½ inch or lower? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tall thresholds can cause a tripping hazard.</li> </ul>		
8.3	Can turn on light in each room with switch by the door? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a light switch by each door ensures that you will always be able to turn on a light, to see where you are going.</li> </ul>		
8.4	Is there 60" of clear floor space in front of all doors? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having clear floor space ensures clear exits, and that you will be able to open your doors in the event of a fire.</li> </ul>		

9	Housekeeping	Yes	No
9.1	Are the floors clear of clutter? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clutter can cause tripping/fire hazards.</li> </ul>		
9.2	Are frequently used objects easy to reach? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If frequently used objects are easy to reach, it prevents injuries related to straining oneself, or falling trying to reach the object.</li> </ul>		
9.3	Have spare light bulbs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having spare light bulbs will ensure you never have to worry about not being able to replace a burnt out light bulb.</li> </ul>		
9.4	Have spare batteries for alarms? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batteries for alarms in your home should be changed twice a year.</li> <li>• It is always good to have spare batteries just in case the batteries in the alarm should happen to go bad.</li> </ul>		
9.5	Are extension cords being used properly? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension cords should never be used as permanent wiring. If you have something that is hooked into an extension cord all of the time, it should be permanently wired.</li> <li>• There should not be anything piled on top of extension cords.</li> </ul>		
9.6	Is electrical panel labeled? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of the breakers in the electrical panel should be labeled.</li> </ul>		
9.7	Are electrical panel slots covered? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any slots left open where a breaker switch would normally be should be covered with a cover plate.</li> </ul>		
9.8	Are counter edges rounded throughout the house? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having rounded counter edges helps prevent scrapes from bumping into the counter. Also, if you do happen to fall it is better to hit a rounded corner than a pointed corner.</li> </ul>		
9.9	Is the fireplace clean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the chimney inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a professional chimney sweep to ensure it's clear of obstructions and creosote.</li> <li>• Have a cap installed at the top of the chimney to avoid the possibility that debris or animals can block the chimney.</li> <li>• Install both a smoke and carbon monoxide detector. (Make sure the batteries work.)</li> <li>• Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.</li> <li>• Make sure the area around the fireplace is clear of furniture, books, newspapers and other potentially flammable materials. (Two feet away is a good rule.)</li> </ul>		

10	Miscellaneous	Yes	No
10.1	<p>Have a 72 hour kit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 72 hour kits should be put together in a practical manner so that you can carry it with you if you ever need to evacuate your home.</li> <li>• Prepare a 72 hour kit for each member of your family who is able to carry one.</li> </ul>		
10.2	<p>Have a grab and go kit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who go to the emergency room regularly should have a “grab and go” kit. When you need to go to the emergency room you grab the small portable kit and it has everything you will need when you get to the hospital.</li> <li>• The kit should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A list of your medical history and current medications.</li> <li>- Glasses, if you wear them.</li> <li>- Keys to your house</li> <li>- Insurance information</li> <li>- Emergency contact information</li> <li>- Physician’s name and contact information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
10.3	<p>Have an EMIS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Medical Information Sheets (EMIS) are a great help in getting important information to emergency responders.</li> <li>• Information should be updated regularly on the sheet.</li> <li>• EMIS should be located on the refrigerator.</li> </ul>		
10.4	<p>Have an emergency alert system?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical alert systems have helped many people and saved lives. If you have an alert system it doesn’t matter if you are near a phone. Just a push of the button and help is on the way.</li> </ul>		
10.5	<p>Have ICE on cell phone?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Case of Emergency (ICE) is a program that enables first responders, such as paramedics, firefighters, and police officers, to identify victims and contact their next of kin to obtain important medical information.</li> <li>• ICE encourages people to enter emergency contacts in their cell phone address book under the name "ICE". Alternately, a person can list multiple emergency contacts as "ICE1", "ICE2", etc.</li> </ul>		

If you have any questions, or would like to have members of the South Jordan City Fire Department come to your home to help with your safety inspection please call:

South Jordan City Fire Department Administration 801-254-0948