



FOSTER HOME/ADOPTION INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Your foster home or adoption inspection will be conducted by the Henderson County Fire Marshal's Office. The State of Texas requires this inspection be performed by a licensed State Inspector who is the authority having jurisdiction in your area. In an effort to help you and make this inspection a positive experience, we have put together a list of items the Fire Marshal will be looking for at the time of inspection so you can be prepared. Thanks for working with us to ensure the safety of your family and your home.

1. The Fire Marshal will need to know how many children will be in the home and the age of the children. An age range is acceptable. (Example 6 months to 15 yrs) The age range determines precautions that may need to be taken in the home.
2. The Fire Marshal will make sure there is a working smoke detector in each sleeping room and in the hallway near the sleeping room.
3. If the house is more than 1 story, the Fire Marshal will require a working smoke detector to be installed at the top of the stairs.
4. The Fire Marshal will make sure that each sleeping room has at least one secondary means of escape. This could be a second doorway, an outside window or a doorway leading into another room. Please make sure that the secondary means of escape is free of clutter with nothing blocking it. If a window is used, make sure it is clear on the inside as well as the outside. This is so if the Fire Department is needed, they can access the window without obstacles.
5. The Fire Marshal will make sure none of the secondary escapes are blocked by bars or wooden obstacles.
6. All closet doors will be checked to make sure a child can open them from the inside.
7. If the bathroom doors are equipped with a lock, the Fire Marshal will make sure it can be opened from the outside with the use of a key.
8. If you have gas appliances in the home, the Fire Marshal will check to make sure they have been inspected annually by a qualified inspector, that they are vented to the outside, they have the appropriate screens or barriers attached and that no flammable materials are stored in or around them.



9. If you have a fire place in your home, the Fire Marshal will make sure there are no combustibile materials within 3 feet of the fire place.
10. Lighters and matches are allowed to be in your home but the Fire Marshal will ask where they are kept and make sure they are not in reach of children.
11. The Fire Marshal will ask where any flammable liquids are kept to make sure they are not in easy access to children.
12. The Fire Marshal will require a 5 pound dry chemical fire extinguisher to be properly mounted in the kitchen area of your home. The extinguisher must be mounted visibly no lower than 12 inches from the floor but no higher than 48 inches from the floor.
13. If your home is over 2000 square feet, the Fire Marshal will require two 5 pound chemical fire extinguishers to be mounted in the home in opposite areas of the home.
14. A home escape plan must be written and posted in a conspicuous location (usually the refrigerator)
15. The home escape plan must be practiced every 30 days and documented with the time and date. Some people confuse this with once a month but June 1st and then July 31st will not work. It has to be practiced and documented every 30 days.
16. The Fire Marshal will locate and look at your homes electrical panel. Please remove any items from in front of it to allow access to it.

While in your home, the Fire Marshal may see other areas of concern and ask you to fix those issues. Once the inspection is complete, the Fire Marshal will show you his report and email you a copy before he leaves.

We thank you for choosing to be a foster parent and providing the much needed care to children in our area. We are here for any questions or concerns and can be reached at 903-675-6157 or you can email the Fire Marshal directly at srenberg@henderson-county.com.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane Renberg".

Shane Renberg

Henderson County Fire Marshal