

# LOCUST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS



## **10 Steps to a Safer Home**

- 1) Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Batteries should be changed twice a year. You can do this when you change your clocks. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, and in hallways and bedrooms.
- 2) Plan and practice an escape plan to use in case of a fire and know two ways out of each room. Include a place for the family to meet outside in an emergency.
- 3) Keep matches, lighters, and other hazardous items out of reach of children.
- 4) Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, basement, workshop area, and garage.
- 5) Keep fire hydrants clear of snow and debris.
- 6) Avoid overloading outlets with too many plugs. Replace frayed electrical cords and plugs. Place safety covers in unused outlets.
- 7) Make sure your house number is clearly marked so that emergency personnel can find it.
- 8) Purchase portable heaters with automatic shutoff safety features. Keep them at least 3 feet from curtains and other flammable items.
- 9) Never leave candles or open flames unattended. Teach children to stay away from hot things.
- 10) Clean your wood stove or fireplace each season. Have your furnace and chimney cleaned and inspected annually.