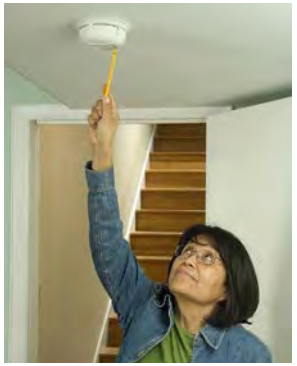
Basement Fire Safety

Follow these basement safety tips to help keep your home fire-safe.



Early Warning Devices

- Install a smoke alarm in the basement. Test the alarm each month, and clean as needed. The basement smoke alarm should be connected to other smoke alarms in your home.
- If you have oil, gas or wood burning equipment in the basement, you should also have a carbon monoxide alarm installed in the basement.

Utilities

- Maintain easy, quick access to your fuse box or circuit breaker panel.
- Keep the burner access doors on gas water heaters and gas furnaces closed to prevent flames from escaping and starting a fire.

Housekeeping

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the furnace, oil burner, wood stoves, water heaters, and other heat-generating equipment.
- Keep oily rags in airtight containers and away from heat sources.
- Trash should not be stored in the basement.
- Washers and dryers should be plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Clean lint filters every time you use the dryer. Clean the dryer vent ductwork every year.
- Keep stairs free of clutter and safe for quick exit in an emergency.

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA

For more information and free resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach.