

Fire and Home Safety

As a Caregiver with Primary Home Care
You need to be ever watchful for potential hazards and to be aware of you closest exits. Any concerns need to be reported to your direct supervisor.



- Decreased mobility, health, sight, and hearing may limit a person's ability to take the quick action necessary to escape during a fire emergency.

How Can I Help?

- Caregivers are encouraged to check the smoke alarms of those who are unable to do it themselves. Test them monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- The chances of surviving a home fire almost doubles with the initial warning from a smoke alarm.



Plan for Escape

- Planning fire escape plans around one's capabilities is a key element to fire safety!
 - Know at least two exits from every room.
 - Familiarize yourself with not only the fire escapes but also where fire extinguishers and alarms are located in the home or facility.

Safety in the Home

- Safety is the first concern when addressing a senior's home environment. Typically, as a person's ability to care for themselves becomes increasingly limited, their safety should be the focus. Falls in the home are very common for seniors and can cause devastating changes in health status and independence. Any change that can be made to the home which will help prevent falls should be addressed immediately.



The Caregiver's Role

- Caregivers are responsible for the safety of the senior in their care and need to look at safety features from a different perspective. A senior may or may not need to be protected from certain elements within the home given his or her specific impairments. The caregiver should determine the necessary measures for making changes in the home. Even the smallest of changes can make a big difference. Understand the limitations of the senior.

General Home Safety

- Post all emergency numbers near the phone or on the refrigerator, i.e. emergency contacts, doctors, poison control, Primary Home Care after hours emergency.
- Place frequently used items within reach and off of high shelves.
- Remove potential tripping hazards: electric cords, low lying furniture, area rugs, loose carpet.



- Inspect walkway and driveways and report any problems areas.
- Check that footwear worn in the home has non-skid soles and is in good condition.
- Install or inspect smoke alarms to assure proper functioning.
- Check that small appliances are working properly and are in good condition, e.g., toasters, space heaters, coffee makers, microwaves, etc.
- Remove clutter form main traffic areas.
- Position furniture to allow plenty of space for walking. Reposition or remove furniture if need be, with clients consent.
- Don't use chairs with rollers on the legs.
- Provide extra support while walking on surfaces such as tile, wet areas, icy walkways, in stocking feet, over curbs, into doctor's offices, and in unfamiliar places.
- Seniors can tend to accept a lower level of lighting because they assume that poor eyesight is part of aging. They don't realize that it is very likely just a lighting issue. Experiment with light levels to improve the lighting throughout the home to see if that makes a difference.

Document any concerns on your timesheet and report it to your supervisor.

In the case of an actual incident; report it to your supervisor as soon as possible, and turn in an Incident Report within 24 hours.



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Required
for all
employees



On-going Education for
Caregivers