

Fire Preparedness with MONARCH HOMES

Did you know the most common causes of house fires are cooking (leaving the stove unattended), improperly extinguishing cigarettes and candles left unattended? A few ways to protect you and your family from a home fire are:

- 1** The key to staying safe is to prepare and have an emergency plan in place. Have practice drills with your family, and talk to your neighbours about what you would do during a house fire.
- 2** Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Test the alarms every month and replace the batteries twice a year.
- 3** Take preventative measures including having your fireplace chimney professionally cleaned on an annual basis, and keeping flammable items at least one metre from heat sources.
- 4** Make a personalized preparedness emergency kit. Families should be prepared to be self-sustaining for at least three days.
- 5** Make sure everyone knows where the fire extinguishers are kept, and how to use them. Fire extinguishers should be visually inspected monthly for damage, proper pressure, and accessibility. Annual professional inspections are recommended.
- 6** Document your belongings, including photographs, videos and detailed notes. Having a record of your possessions makes it easier to file and process insurance claims in the event of a fire or other damage.

Review your insurance coverage annually with your provider to ensure your belongings are properly covered at their replacement value.