

## **HOME SAFETY MEASURES**

Client/Family was instructed in the following safety guidelines as applicable:

### **GENERAL SAFETY:**

Keep doors locked, ask visitors to identify themselves before opening door.

### **FALLS:**

Home is free from clutter and in good repair.

Do NOT use throw rugs and runners.

Suggest installing ramps and handrails for mobility impaired patients if needed and not present.

Assistive devices (walker, cane, etc.) should be used for mobility impaired patients.

Use of night light in bathroom and assure pathways are well lighted.

### **FIRE SAFETY:**

All exits and pathways are free from clutter.

Develop an emergency exit plan in case of fire.

Have an all-purpose (ABC) fire extinguisher at the residence.

Install smoke alarms: initiate one time a month maintenance testing.

If client/family has no smoke alarms/fire extinguishers in the home, the importance of obtaining these items is stressed.

Maintain telephone and post-emergency numbers on or near the telephone.

Keep fire source away from bed and bedding.

Make sure you use no greater than a 60-watt light bulb unless you are aware of specific voltage.

Electrical cords and plugs are not defective, frayed or cracked. Check to see that the third prong has not been removed or bypassed with an adapter.

Do not wear clothing with long sleeves while cooking.

Turn pot handles to the side.

Store flammable products away from igniting sources.

When fire or smoke is in your home, remember that the national code for fire is "RACE" (See below).

R – Rescue

Remove anyone in immediate danger.

A – Alarm

Call 911.

C – Contain

Close doors only if you can stay between fire and a way to safety.

E – Extinguish

Aim fire extinguisher at base of flame.

## **HOME SAFETY MEASURES CONT'D:**

### **OXYGEN SAFETY:**

Never smoke when oxygen is in use.

Never use electrical appliances when patient is using oxygen (no heating pads, electric blankets, etc.).

Never use alcohol or rubbing oil when oxygen is in use; it increases inflammability.

Oxygen in its natural state is a non-flammable gas; it does not explode, but will make a fire worse.

Exhaled oxygen saturates porous material like bed linens, pillows, clothing and hair. Caution must be exercised even when oxygen cylinder is not in use due to potential feeding of a fire.

Always keep extra oxygen cylinder on-stand-by in case of malfunction.

Keep name and number of medical supply company in a convenient place for easy reference.

### **HAZARDOUS WASTE SAFETY:**

Soiled dressing supplies used on patients with dermatitis, open ulcers, wounds, decubitus, etc., should be double bagged in plastic bag prior to discarding in appropriate trash receptacle.

Sputum cups and Kleenexes soiled with sputum and/or nasal drainage should also be discarded as above.

Patients receiving injections should be issued a puncture-proof container in which to place used syringes and needles. Staff will close/lock container, place in a biohazard bag and deliver to environmental services. After home health discharge, patient should close/lock container, double bag and dispose of in a trash receptacle.

Patient requiring puncture-proof container must keep container out of reach of children.

Two common items found in the home which are puncture-proof are dishwashing bottles and coffee cans.

The tops on both must be sealed with tape before discarding in trash receptacle.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN**

See brochure from [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) for checklist of items necessary to complete your personal emergency plan.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

Water - one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking, sanitation

Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food

Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert

Flashlight

First aid kit

Extra batteries

Whistle to signal for help

Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place

Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities

Manual can opener for food

Local maps

Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery