



Living/Family Room Hazards

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- **Adequate Lighting**
- **Trip/Slips/Falls**
- **Cabinet/Shelves**
- **Pets**

- **Furniture**
- **Electrical**
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- **Fire Safety**

This tool is used to help develop a comprehensive health and safety program. Within this tool are links that will lead to resources which will require internet connectivity for you to view them. The Care West Team has captured key elements in which we believe are pertinent to developing a successful health and safety program.

Adequate Lighting

- Need adequate lighting to be able to see any potential hazards
- Use bright, vivid colors to light up rooms
- Lighted switch plates make finding switches at night easier
- Have night lights in between bedrooms and bathrooms
- Provide adequate lighting especially during night hours. You can use flashlights or low-level lighting when entering patient rooms or any other places around the house!
- Always have a flashlight handy for emergency purposes.



Trips/Slips/Falls:

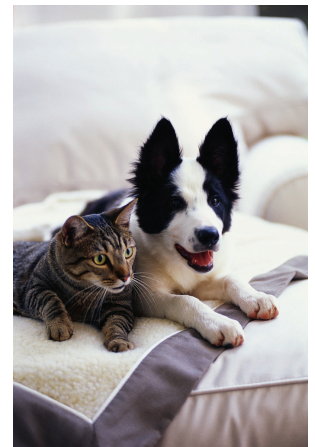
- Floors shall be kept clean and dry
- Use no skid waxes and surfaces coated with grit (non slip shoes) may also help decrease slip / fall hazards.
- OSHA walking / working surfaces standard requires that all places of employment shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition.
- Rugs and loose carpets are potential tripping hazards.
- Loose cables running from lamps, radios, TV, etc. can cause trips.

Cabinets/Shelves:

- Never overfill cabinets, preventing items from falling out when you open cabinets!
- Store heavier items on bottom shelves and lighter items higher up.
- Should have some mechanism that allows you to lock cabinets.
- Never place different kinds of chemicals to close together. They may start a chemical reaction.

Pets:

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Pets are constantly on the move, thus being a constant trip hazard
- Animal play toys are trip hazards.
- Slippery floors may be caused by animal's urine
- Ask that pets be kept restrained or kept out of the room on initial visits.
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- Do not assume that animals will react the same way on every visit. It is important that workers proceed with caution – they are the intruders in the animal's home. Even a normally calm animal may grow protective during unfamiliar nursing procedures.



Furniture:

- Be careful with tables with sharp corners
- Should not be moving around heavy furniture
- When cleaning always be aware of your surroundings
- Make sure all furniture is stable

Electrical:

(Common electrical Safety Hazards Include):

1. Frayed Electrical cords
2. Over loaded power points (e.g. Double adaptors)
3. Damaged or cracked equipments
4. Electricity near water, such as bar heaters or hairdryers in bathrooms (an increased risk with hand held showers).
5. Damaged or incorrectly wired electrical switches.
6. Always have a flashlight handy for emergency purposes.

The most common prevention measures are the use of Residual Current Devices (RCDs) by home care workers when they use electrical equipment at a client's home.

Toys:

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Visitors might leave items lying around. These can become Slip/Trip hazards.

Rooms should be maintained clean and in order whenever possible.

Fire Safety:

Possible fires from heat producing equipment such as burners, ovens, and grills due to:

- Poor Housekeeping
- Un-emptied grease traps (possible grease fires).
- Improper storage of flammable items.
- Fire Prevention Plan requirements. Evacuation, Plans and Procedures.
- [Faulty or Frayed electrical cords.](#)

Possible Solutions:

- Provide appropriate and effective employee training for safe handling of equipment.
- Keep grill and grill duct work free from flammable residues and properly maintained.
- Flammable items must be stored away from heat producing equipment.

* Portable Fire Extinguishers [[1910.157](#)].

- Fixed dry chemical extinguishing systems used to fight grease fires must meet requirements of 1910.161 Dry chemical fire Extinguishers and Fixed Extinguishing Systems.
- Provide an emergency action plan, and fire prevention plan.
 - Emergency Action Plan (EAP):
 - If fire extinguishers are required or provided in your workplace, and if anyone will be evacuating during a fire or other emergency, then OSHA's [1910.157 standard](#) requires you to have an EAP.
 - [Am I required to have an emergency action plan?](#) OSHA's Expert System – Evacuation, Plans, and Procedures eTool.
 - [Should employees fight or flee a fire?](#) Evacuation, Plans, and Procedures eTool.
 - Fire Prevention Plan:
 - The purpose of a fire prevention plan is to prevent a fire from occurring in the workplace.
 - An employer must have a fire prevention plan when an OSHA standard requires one.
 - [Fire Prevention Plan requirements.](#) Evacuation, Plans, and Procedures eTool.