

Sample Home Safety Checklist

Check safety steps that being taking in your home. Write N/A if the item is not applicable. Items left blank may present a safety hazard. This list provides some sample safety steps you might take. See your Safety Merit Badge pamphlet and counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps

- Stairways with three or more steps have a strong handrail.
- Stairs/halls are kept free from boxes, toys, brooms, tools, etc.
- Gates at top and bottom of stairs prevent children from falling.
- The head and foot of stairs have no small or loose rugs.
- Stair carpeting or covering is fastened securely.
- Stairways & halls have good lighting, controllable at each end.

Kitchen

- Matches are kept where children cannot get them.
- Knives & sharp instruments are kept in knife drawers or holder.
- Can openers don't leave sharp edges on cans.
- Disinfectants & cleaning products are out of reach of children.
- Pan handles are turned away from stove edges.
- Spilled grease, water, or bits of food are wiped up immediately.
- Pot holders are within easy reach.
- A fire extinguisher is mounted near the stove.

Bathroom

- Tub and shower are equipped with strong handholds.
- Tub floor has non-slip surface.
- Poisons are marked, sealed shut, and out of reach of children.
- Medicines are out of reach of children in childproof containers.
- No one takes medicine in the dark.

Attic and Basement

- Ladder is strong, solid, and sturdily constructed.
- Stairway is sturdy and well lighted.
- Children keep skates and play gear in a specific place.
- Walls and beams are free from protruding nails.
- Fuses or circuit breakers are the proper size.
- Rubbish & flammable materials are in covered metal cans.
- Wastepaper is kept away from furnace and stairs.

Living Room and Dining Room

- Furniture is placed to allow easy passage in an emergency.
- Before bedtime, furniture placement is checked for orderliness.
- Furniture and woodwork solid, in good repair, and free from.
- Fireplace screen fits snugly.
- Rugs are fastened or laid on non-slip pads.

- Rugs are kept from curling at their edges.
- Wax on floors is thoroughly buffed.
- Fire in fireplace is extinguished at bedtime.
- Candles are in stable holders and fully extinguished after use.

Bedroom

- Smoke alarm has fresh battery or electrical connection & is tested regularly.
- Carbon monoxide detector has fresh battery or electrical connection and is tested regularly.
- Furniture placement for clear passage between bed and door.
- Light switch or lamp is within easy reach from bed.
- A night-light illuminates bedroom or hall.
- Bureau and dresser drawers are closed when not in use.
- Bar across bunk beds helps prevent falls.
- Children are taught not to lean against windows or screens.
- Sturdily screen low windows to prevent children from falling.
- Smoking in bed is prohibited.
- Gas and electric heating devices are turned off at bedtime.

Nursery

- Bars on cribs are closely spaced.
- Crib is approved by Consumer Products or similar.
- Crib is free from sharp edges or corners.
- Sleeping garments and covers keep baby warm without danger of smothering.
- Pillows are kept out of bassinet or crib.
- No thin, plastic material is in or near the crib.
- Children are taught not to give marbles, etc. to younger children.
- Toys are sturdy & have no sharp edges.
- Nontoxic paint is used on baby furniture and toys.
- All houseplants are nonpoisonous.

Sample Home Safety Checklist (page 2)

Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters

- Stoves are away from curtains.
- Stoves & furnaces are inspected & cleaned annually.
- Gas burners are properly adjusted and free from leaks.
- Gas water and space heaters are equipped with vents or flues.
- Water heater or boiler has a safety valve & is checked yearly.
- Flames of gas burners are protected from drafts.
- Insulating shield protects woodwork within 18" of furnace, etc.
- Keep flammable materials away from stoves, furnaces, etc.
- A wrench is stored near the shut-off valve of outside gas line.

Porch, Yard, and Garage

- Railings and banisters are sound and inspected periodically.
- Steps and walks are kept free from ice and snow.
- Yard/play space are free from holes, stones, glass, etc.
- Tools and dangerous articles are out of reach of children.
- Dangerous products & chemicals are kept in original containers in locked storage areas.
- Wires and low fences are brightly painted or clearly marked.
- Wells, cisterns, and pits are kept securely covered.
- Disposable materials are not burned outside.
- An area is marked off in the garage for bicycles, wagons, etc.
- Lawn mower is equipped with proper safeguards.

Workshop

- Good ventilation exists, especially when sanding.
- Safety goggles and/or face mask are available, with eyewash.
- Baking soda is kept handy to neutralize acid burns.
- All electrical tools are either three-wire or double-insulated.
- Work area is well lit & free of clutter, scraps, rags.
- All tools have a place & are in their place.
- Guards are in place on all power tools.
- A push stick is available for use with power saws.

Electrical Devices and Fixtures

- Electrical fixtures and appliances are located & used beyond arm's length of the sink, stove, tub, shower, or other grounded metal unless outlet is protected by a ground-fault interrupter.
- Do not touch electrical fixtures or appliances with wet hands.
- Disconnect seldom-used appliances when not in use.
- All pull-type sockets have an insulating link.

- Household appliances are disconnected before repairs.
- Unused, open, screw-type sockets are plugged closed.
- Frayed or worn electric cords are promptly replaced.
- Long trailing cords are not in evidence.
- Cords are kept out from under rugs, doors, and furniture.
- UA-approved extension cords are the proper size.
- Children are taught never to touch electric sockets or fixtures.
- Fuses are adequate for the load and are not bypassed.
- Circuit breakers are not overloaded.

General

- At least one smoke detector in each bedroom & garage.
- Everything has a place and is in its place.
- Stepladders are in good repair and stored out of the way.
- Window screens and storm windows are securely fastened.
- Guns are stored unloaded and in locked cases.
- Guns and ammunition are stored separately.
- Children are permitted to use only blunt-end scissors.
- Housework clothing has no drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills.
- Shoes worn for housework have low heels.
- All shoes are in good repair.
- Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials are stored outside in special, clearly marked metal containers.
- Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other oily materials are stored outside in open metal containers.
- Everyone turns on a light before entering a dark room.
- Matches are extinguished before they're thrown away.
- Children are never permitted to play with matches.
- Fire extinguishers are readily available.

For Emergency

- Know how to get emergency help (911, poison control, etc.).
- Be able to find water, gas, & electric shutoffs. Check annually.
- First aid kit approved by your doctor/American Red Cross.
- Know basic first aid procedures.
- Have a fire escape plan from your home.
- Emergency water supply.
- Handheld flashlights readily available.
- In earthquake-prone areas, make sure that the water heater and bookcases are bolted to the walls.

Escape Planning

- ◆ Develop an escape plan that includes two exits out of every room and a meeting place outside (e.g., mailbox or tree).
- ◆ Teach children how to operate window locks. Second story windows may need a chain ladder to enable a safe escape.
- ◆ Crawl low when exiting to avoid breathing in smoke and heat.
- ◆ Practice your plan with all family members. Remember, those with special needs may require assistance.



Safety Tips

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths.

- ◆ Sleep with bedroom doors closed.
- ◆ Purchase and use ashtrays that have the center support feature and never smoke in bed.
- ◆ Do not leave cooking, candles or space heaters unattended.
- ◆ Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- ◆ Avoid overloading electrical circuits, inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage, and use extension cords with built-in circuit breakers.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

The majority of home fire fatalities occur between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep.

74% of reported home fire deaths result from fires in homes with missing or non-working smoke alarms.

What do I do?

There are two things that you need to do:

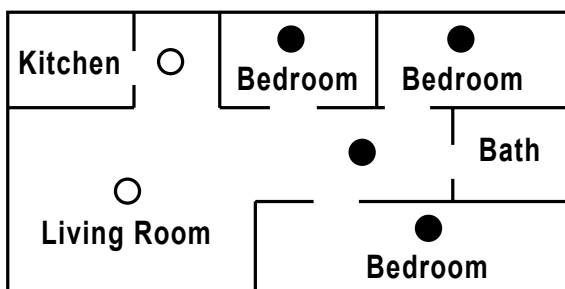
- 1) Purchase, install and maintain smoke alarms in your home.
- 2) Develop and practice a home escape plan with your family.

How Many and Where?

For **minimum** protection, install smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, such as the hallway, and on every level of your home.

For **maximum** protection, install additional smoke alarms in each living area of your home. Avoid placing smoke alarms in kitchen and bathrooms.

SINGLE STORY HOME



Be Safe...Replace!

Smoke alarms monitor the air 24 hours a day, every day. After 10 years, it's been on the job for over 87,000 hours.

For best protection, replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.

Failure predictions:

- First year: 2-3%
- Second to 10th year: 16-30%
- More than 10 years old: 30-50%



Do you remember when you installed your smoke alarms or how old they were when you moved in?

If you are not sure... *Be Safe & Replace!*

For additional information, please contact:



Santa Clara County Fire Department
408.378.4010 or 1.800.800.1793

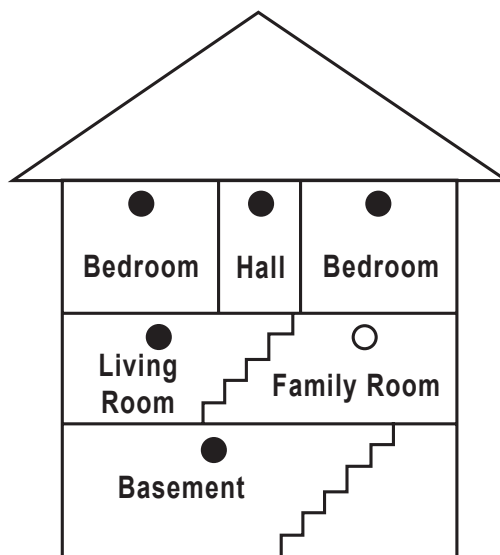
www.sccfd.org

We proudly serve:
Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos,
Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno,
Morgan Hill, Saratoga and unincorporated
communities of Santa Clara County

Sources: NFPA 2006, www.nfpa.org

Rev. 2007

TWO STORY HOME



- = Smoke Alarms for **Minimum** Protection
- + ○ = Smoke Alarms for **Maximum** Protection

Nuisance Alarms

If your smoke alarm unit regularly responds to cooking smoke or shower steam, consider the following:

- ◆ Replace the unit with one that has the silence button feature.
- ◆ Move the unit further away to give cooking smoke or steam a chance to dissipate before reaching the unit.
- ◆ If ceiling mounted, move unit to a wall.
- ◆ If the unit is the ionization type, replace it with a photoelectric detector. This type of alarm is less sensitive to smaller particles and thus less affected by cooking smoke or small amounts of steam. Packaging and/or owner's manual will indicate type of alarm.

Each year in the United States over 3,000 people are killed in home fires

SMOKE ALARMS



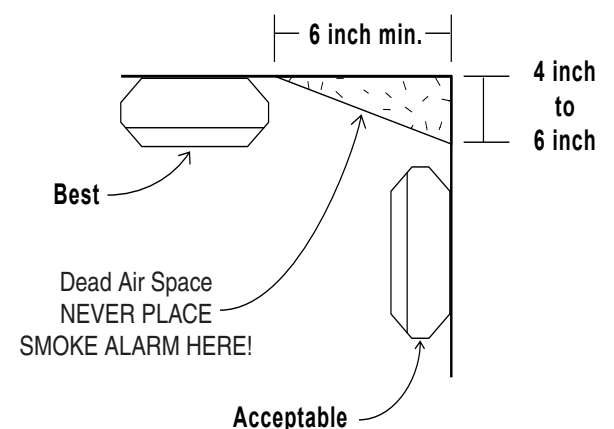
Can Save Your Life!

Working smoke alarms increase your chance of surviving a fire by 50%

Installing Smoke Alarms

- ◆ Mount smoke alarms in the middle of the ceiling.
- ◆ For wall-mounted units, place them at least 3' from any corner and 4-6" from the ceiling.
- ◆ Do not install smoke alarms near heating or cooling ducts.
- ◆ In mobile home units, install smoke alarms on inside walls.

SMOKE ALARM PLACEMENT



Maintenance

Test smoke alarms every month. For hard to reach units, use a broom handle or stick to press the test button.

Replace batteries once a year. Use daylight savings time as your reminder. "Change your clocks... change your batteries."

If the low-battery signal begins to chirp, replace battery immediately.

Vacuum the outside covers of the smoke alarms periodically to remove dust, dirt particles and insects.



Carbon Monoxide

The Silent Killer

Facts

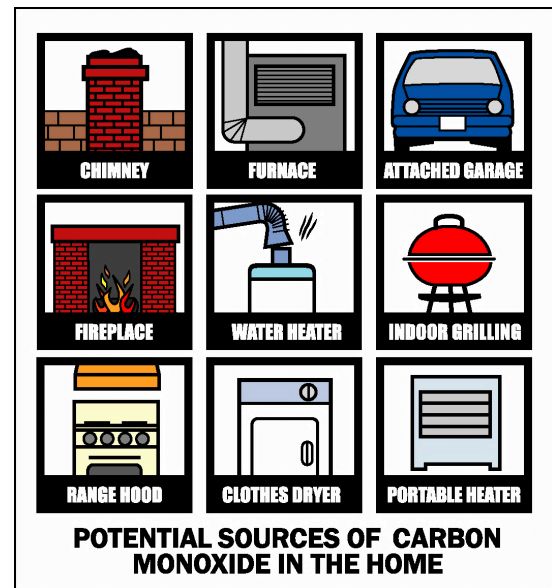
- According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), almost 500 unintentional deaths and more than 1,700 suicides are related to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning each year in the United States. CO is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths. (CDC 2007)
- An estimated 15,000 people are treated annually for CO poisoning in hospital emergency rooms, but it is believed that many more are misdiagnosed or never seek medical care. (CDC 2007)
- California law now requires new and existing homes to have carbon monoxide alarms. (California SB 183, 2010)

Symptoms

- Early exposure to CO mimics flu-like symptoms; headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, dizziness, confusion, shortness of breath and fast heart rate.

CO Sources

- CO is a toxic gas that is odorless, tasteless and invisible. CO is produced when fossil fuels burn incompletely due to insufficient oxygen. Fuels include natural gas, propane, kerosene, gasoline, coal, wood and charcoal.



- Sources of CO include the furnace, water heater, gas kitchen range or cooktop, gas clothes dryer, fireplace, space heater, portable generator, charcoal grill, wood-burning stove or an idling vehicle in an attached garage.

CO Causes

- Improper installation or poor maintenance of appliances. Automobile exhaust.
- Inadequate ventilation of appliances, including fuel burning space heaters and portable generators.
- Energy efficient homes that have added insulation, sealed windows and other weatherproofing can become 'airtight' and trap CO inside.

If CO poisoning is suspected, open windows and doors for fresh air. Leave the house and call 9-1-1.



Santa Clara County Fire Department

408.378.4010 or 1.800.800.1793

Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Saratoga and unincorporated communities.

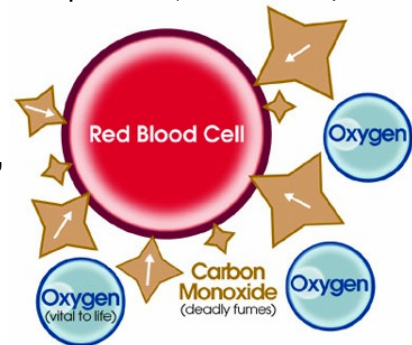
www.sccfd.org

more...

CO Exposure

Age, overall health, length of exposure and the concentration of the exposure (measured in parts per million) all determine the degree to which CO affects a person. Install carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Test monthly. (www.nfpa.org)

A source of carbon monoxide poisoning, such as a faulty furnace, kitchen range or water heater can produce up to 1,600 ppm. A charcoal grill 3,200 ppm and tailpipe exhaust can produce in excess of 70,000 ppm. The table below shows typical symptoms based on concentration and time of exposure.



Concentration & Time of Exposure — parts per million (ppm)

9 ppm	EPA residential standard - not to exceed 9 ppm in 8 hours
35 ppm	EPA residential standard - not to exceed 35 ppm in 1 hour
50 ppm	OSHA workplace standard - not to exceed 50 ppm in an 8 hour period
200 ppm	Slight headache, fatigue, dizziness, and nausea after 2-3 hours.
400 ppm	Frontal headaches within 1-2 hours. Life threatening after 3 hours.
800 ppm	Dizziness, nausea and convulsions within 45 minutes. Unconsciousness within 2 hours. Death within 2-3 hours.
1,600 ppm	Headache, dizziness and nausea within 20 minutes. Death within 1 hour.
12,800 ppm	Death within 1-3 minutes.



Carbon monoxide alarms are designed to activate before potentially life-threatening levels of CO are reached. To reduce nuisance alarms, there are also requirements that each alarm must meet before it activates. (UL standard 2034)

Underwriters Laboratories Standards for CO Alarms @ 85 decibels

30 ppm present	Alarm will sound when present for more than 30 days (Alarm required to ignore low levels of CO unless present long-term)
70 ppm present	Alarm will sound within 1-4 hours (Alarm required to ignore levels of 70 ppm for at least 1 hour before sounding)
150 ppm present	Alarm will sound within 10-50 minutes
400 ppm present	Alarm will sound within 4-15 minutes

For more information about carbon monoxide poisoning and prevention tips:

Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov (Fact Sheets available in multi-languages)

Consumer Product Safety Commission www.cpsc.gov

Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov

Federal Emergency Management Agency www.fema.gov

For more multi-language information, also visit King County Public Health www.kingcounty.gov



Is Your Family Prepared to Survive a Fire...

Home Fire Escape Planning & Practice

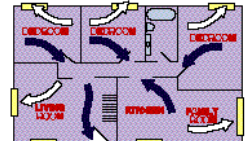


Install smoke alarms in all bedrooms, in the hallway, and on every level of your home, including the basement. Alarms should be tested once a month (use a broom handle to quickly test the unit) and batteries replaced at least once a year. Create an escape plan of your house and practice it often with every member of your household.

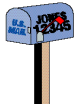
1. Plan Your Escape Today! Once a fire starts, there is NO time to plan how to get out. Sit down with your family *today* and make a step-by-step plan for escaping your home safely.

2. Draw a floor plan (birds-eye view) of your home with clearly marked exits.

Indicate all doors and windows, as well as stairways, porches and porch roofs. Clearly mark two ways out of every room, especially sleeping areas.

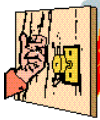


3. Locate & identify a central meeting place outside your home.



After escaping a fire, immediately find the meeting place, such as a mailbox, tree or neighbor's home and wait for the fire department to arrive. This meeting place will help the fire department identify missing or trapped persons inside the burning home. *Teach young children and others to never go back into a burning house for any reason. Let trained fire fighters do their job!*

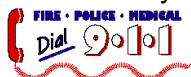
4. Practice...Practice...Practice your escape plan! Appoint a "fire chief" (typically father, mother, grandparent, etc.) to hold 'realistic' fire drills in the home and have *everyone* participate. Speed is vital, so get out quickly and carefully. Pretend some exits are blocked by fire and smoke and practice alternative escape routes.



- Test doors before opening them! While kneeling or crouching near the door, feel the crack between the door and it's frame and then reach up as high as you can and touch the door with the back of your hand. If you feel any warmth at all, *do not open* the door and use an alternate escape route. If the door feels cool, wedge your foot behind the door so you can slightly open the door with caution.

Note: As a precaution, sleep with bedroom doors closed. This will act as a barrier to protect you from the heat and smoke until the fire department arrives.

- As you exit the home, remain low to the ground on your hands and knees, crawling low under the smoke. Smoke contains deadly gases and heat rises; the cooler, cleaner air will be near the floor.



- If you are trapped, close all doors between you and the fire. Stuff cracks under the doors to keep smoke out. If there is a phone in the room, call 9-1-1 and report exactly where you are. Wait at a window and signal for help.

5. Be Prepared! Make sure everyone in the household can unlock all doors and windows quickly, even in the dark. Windows or doors with security bars need to be equipped with quick-release devices from the inside and everyone, including small children, should know how to use them.

FIRE PREVENTION IS YOUR BEST FIRE PROTECTION! Be careful when smoking and when using matches & lighters, gas appliances, and electrical devices/outlets. Avoid misuses of electrical appliances and outlets. Clean heating equipment annually and check for repairs regularly. You CAN prevent fires and protect your loved ones by remembering that... **Smoke Alarms SAVE Lives!**



Have an escape plan

Santa Clara County Fire Department

408.378.4010 www.sccfd.org



Fire Extinguishers

Types of Fires



Ordinary Combustibles

paper, wood, cloth,
rubber and many plastics



Flammable Liquids

oils, gasoline, grease, solvents,
lacquers and some paints



Energized Electrical Equipment

electrical sources which are
still supplied with power



Cooking Oils

vegetable or animal oils and fats



As shown above, fire extinguisher labels display letters and/or symbols that indicate the types of fires they can effectively extinguish. If there is a slash through any of the letters and/or symbols, **do not** use the fire extinguisher on that type of fire.

Common Types of Fire Extinguishers



Multipurpose (ABC) Dry Chemical

Multipurpose (ABC) dry chemical extinguishers contain an ammonium phosphate base which can be used on all types of fires and is the least expensive of the extinguishing agents. The most common size is 2:A-10:B-C and weighs about five pounds.



Wet Chemical (K)

The Class K extinguisher is the ideal choice for use on cooking appliances including deep fat fryers and solid fuel cooking appliances. They contain a low PH potassium acetate base. The extinguishing agent discharges as a fine mist which helps prevent grease splash and fire reflash while cooling the appliance.



Clean Agents

Clean agent fire extinguishers do not leave a residue and are rated ABC or BC depending on size. Halon 1211 is a clean agent that is commonly found around computer systems and electronic equipment. Because of environmental concerns, fire extinguishing clean agents known as halocarbons are now the recommended alternative.



Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

CO₂ extinguishers may be used on most mechanical and electrical fires. Because they are less effective on ordinary combustible (class A) fires, CO₂ fire extinguishers are usually only rated BC depending on the size of the extinguisher.



Pressurized Water

Pressurized water extinguishers are designed for use on ordinary combustible (class A) fires only. Use of water on fires involving flammable liquids and energized electrical equipment can be very dangerous.

Fire Extinguisher Operation

If you attempt to fight the fire, remember the acronym P.A.S.S.

Pull the Pin

A small pin inserted through the handle of the fire extinguisher prevents accidental discharge. It is held in place by a thin plastic strap which will break easily when the pin is pulled or twisted.

Aim the Extinguisher

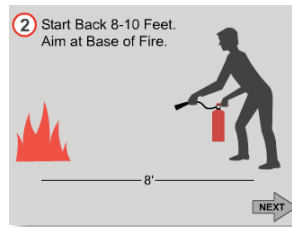
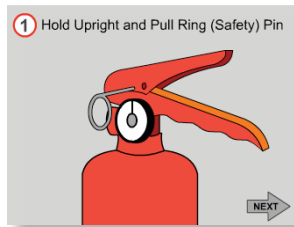
Point or aim the extinguisher at the base or front edge of the fire.

Squeeze the Handle

Squeeze the handle to discharge the fire extinguisher.

Sweep from Side to Side

Keep the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweep side to side, pushing the fire away from you.



Safety Precautions

Keep in mind the following safety precautions if attempting to extinguish a fire:

- Be sure you have the correct fire extinguisher for the type of fire and know how to use it.
- In commercial kitchens with built-in fire protection systems, the system should be activated before attempting to use a portable fire extinguisher.
- Maintain your exit. Leave yourself a way out in case the fire gets out of control.
- Have a back-up person standing by whenever possible in case assistance is needed.
- Stop and leave the area immediately if you experience any physical problems such as dizziness or difficulty breathing.
- Even if you think a fire is out, call the fire department to inspect the area. A fire may reignite or may still be smoldering where it cannot be seen.
- If a fire extinguisher has been used and is rechargeable, have it serviced before returning it to original location.



www.sccfd.org

Santa Clara County Fire Department

A California Fire Protection District serving
Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino,
Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, and Saratoga

408.378.4010