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Home Safety Check List and Tips

Living Room

- Leave generous space to move safely around furniture*
- Make sure furniture and lamps are steady and stable
- Make sure electrical and other cords are out of the way
- Have cordless or cell phone by favorite sitting place

Kitchen

- Have everything within reach so that you do not need to climb
- Wipe up any spills immediately
- Eliminate throw rugs*

Bathroom

- Install anchored grab bars in bathtub/shower and by the toilet area
- Consider a raised toilet and/or a safety frame around the toilet
- Use a non-skid bath mat
- Use a shower chair and handheld sprayer, if it is difficult to stand in the shower
- Install night lights in bathroom and hallway/room outside of bathroom
- Set the thermostat on the water heater no higher than 120-degree Fahrenheit

Bedroom

- Have good lighting next to bed
- Have a phone next to bed
- Remove clutter and cords from the floor*

Stairs

- Have handrails on both sides of the stairs
- Make sure stairs are properly lit
- Do not put items on the stairs

Walkway and Entryways

- Have a small bench in your entryway to help you put on and remove your shoes/boots
- Turn the lights on ahead of you while moving through the house*

* = Applies to ALL rooms

Keep emergency numbers handy

- Emergency Service: **911**
- Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
- Family member or friend to call in case of emergency
- Doctor's office

Protect against fire and related dangers

- Avoid using extension cords to plug lights or appliances into a socket
- Install a smoke detector and replace the battery two times a year (each time you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time) Ask for assistance with this if needed.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen and near fireplaces or wood burning stoves.
- Never smoke in bed or leave candles burning in an empty room
- Make sure space heaters are at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn and turn off space heaters when you leave the room. NEVER use the oven for heating your home
- Always unplug electrical cords by the plug (do not pull on the cord)

Prevent Falls

- Choose non-slip footwear, e.g., slippers with rubber/no-slip bottoms
- Do not wear socks or stockings when walking on smooth floors; they can be very slippery
- If you use a cane or a walker, be sure to use it at all times instead of holding onto walls and furniture
- Replace cane tip when showing wear
- Do not rush to answer the phone

Prevent Poisoning

- Keep prescription medication in the original containers so you do not mix up your medicines
- Keep all medications out of the reach of children and pets
- Ask your pharmacist to put large-print labels on medication bottles to make them easier to read. Easy open bottles also available on request or ask about dose packaging
- Take your medications in a room with lots of light so you can see the labels
- Bring all your pill bottles with you to your doctor's appointments so he or she can look at them and make sure you are taking them correctly

Protect Against Abuse

- Keep your windows and doors locked at all times (be aware during warm weather)
- Be aware of phone scams and unwanted solicitors. Hang up.
- Do not give personal information over the phone to someone you have not called.
- Be aware of the message you leave on your answering machine – use a generic version or a simple “leave a message,” without leaving identifying or location information
- Leave an inside and outside light on when returning after dark
- Trim bushes away from walkways and doors to prevent unwanted guests or animals in the yard.