• Protect your face with your hands or a damp cloth.

• Stop where you are. Do not run; movement may intensify the flames.

• Get rid of combustible waste not home.

• When cooking or baking, do not let children get unattended. Turn off the stove even if you leave the room.

• Never paint over smoke detectors. Keep them clear of dust.

• Ask a trusted neighbour or friend to collect your mail and newspapers. Keep your sidewalk and doorway clean and putash on your steps in your doorway. You can also request that mail be delivered no sooner to avoid a different address used to post fraudulent mail.

• Consider light switch boxes, especially multiple tenants or a shared entry. They can be used to switch the walls and nullify the noise. Do not let children get unattended.

• Installing a home security system and outdoor motion sensors when your home is foregrounded helps the property be monitored.

• Impact you know before you have. Ask your home insurance to check your fall risk. It is important to keep your bathroom floors and showers free from slippery. If sliding glass doors are to be the best you know.

• Don't announce your vacation plans in casual conversations, online or on social networking sites.

Did you know…?

• Most burglars enter a home through an unlocked door or open window. According to Statistics Canada, break-ins account for a large portion of property crime in Canada. In most cases, burglars require entry 30 to 60 minutes to break in.

• Most burglaries occur during the week, in daylight hours.

• Y our garage door opener may provide burglars with an easy point of entry to your home. When you are out of the house, be sure to take your garage door opener with you.

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1. Frequently inspect and clean chimney flues, particularly when burning oil, coal, or wood.
2. A fireplace screen prevents sparks from hitting the floor and rugs.
3. Don’t install a bulb with a higher wattage than the maximum indicated on the fixture.
4. Installing ground fault circuit interrupters is a good idea.
5. A cluttered attic creates perfect conditions for a fire. Clutter such as clothing, boxes, books, magazines, and newspapers not only fuels a fire but prevents firefighters from gaining access to extinguish the flames.
6. Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors outside bedrooms and on each floor of your home.
7. A lightning rod may be a wise investment if your home is built on an elevated or exposed site.
8. Your garage should be separated from the living quarters by a fire-resistant self-closing door.
9. Your garage should have properly wired light fixtures with a switch rather than makeshift installations with an extension cord.
10. Don’t store gasoline, solvents, waste or other flammable materials near a furnace or in your garage. Store them in an outbuilding away from your home.
11. Ensure your fuses and circuit breakers work properly. Inspect aluminum wiring periodically.
12. If your home has a heating system, have it inspected and cleaned regularly. Do not block the air vent or damper. If your home has oil tanks, have it inspected periodically to ensure it is airtight so fuel oil does not overflow or leak.
13. Remove excess lint from the lint trap of your clothes dryer and keep the exhaust line clean.

Fire

1. Take the time to research the best locks for your home. Consult a locksmith. If you have just moved into your home, replace the locks.
2. The door connecting your home to your garage should be as solid as your exterior doors.
3. Glass panels in doors should be replaced with break-resistant plastic panels or reinforced with grills.
4. If you have a mail slot in your front door, check that its location and size do not pose a security issue. Install an outside mailbox, if possible.
5. If you place grills on your windows, fasten them from the inside with easily removable pins so you can still get out in an emergency, such as a fire. Locking windows are a good investment.
6. Keep your valuables in an unpredictable spot. Check with your local police department for any programs available to help mark your valuables, discourage theft, and identify stolen property.
7. High fences may be harder to climb but may also hide a burglary in progress. Consider a fence that gives police or neighbors a clear view of your home’s exterior.

Theft

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Insurance Bureau of Canada is the national trade association for Canada’s private home, car and business insurers.

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