

**THE COUGAR HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER PERSONS-
VERSION 1.0**

Copyright 2004 by Natalie Bryan, OTS, Kristen Coolbaugh, OTS, & Christin Rhodes,
OTS.

Developed under the direction of G.S. Fisher, Ed.D., OTR/L; OT 690/695 Research
Project I and II,
College Misericordia, Dallas, PA.

PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATION:

1. Ask resident to accompany evaluator on a tour of the residence.
2. First observe the kitchen area and make all appropriate notations.
3. Observe next the bathroom area and make all appropriate notations.
4. Tour all other rooms of the dwelling, making notations accordingly.
5. Ask resident to show you the attic, closets, and areas where cleaning items are stored (aerosols, flammables, etc.) in the residence, and make notations as necessary.
6. Ask resident to show you all entranceways and exits from the home, and the parking area or garage, and make notations as necessary.
7. When the tour of the residence is complete, make additional notations, complete survey, and finalize scoring of the assessment immediately.

**THE COUGAR HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER PERSONS-
VERSION 1.0**

Copyright 2004 by Natalie Bryan, OTS, Kristen Coolbaugh, OTS, & Christin Rhodes, OTS.
Developed under the direction of G.S. Fisher, Ed.D., OTR/L; OT 690/695 Research Project I and II,
College Misericordia, Dallas, PA.

GENERAL SAFETY

Fire Hazards

1. *There is a fire extinguisher on every level of the house or apartment.*

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

2. There is a smoke detector present and in working order on every level of the house or apartment.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

3. Furnishings and flammable objects such as curtains or rugs are located away from heaters.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

4. Portable heaters, ash trays, or other fire sources are located away from bedding.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

5. Candles are located in a place away from flammable objects such as curtains, bedding, or carpeting.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

Carbon Monoxide

6. There is a carbon monoxide detector present and in working order on every level of house or apartment.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

Emergency

7. There is an easily accessible telephone in every room in case of a fall.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

8. Emergency numbers are posted on or near the telephone.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

9. Flashlights, especially by the bed, are present and accessible.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

**THE COUGAR HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER PERSONS-
VERSION 1.0**

Mobility

10. *Exits, hallways, and passageways are kept clear.*

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

11. There is a step stool which is stable and in good condition on every level of the house or apartment.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

12. The height of chairs, couches, and beds are appropriate for safe transfers.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

Electrical

13. Small appliances such as toasters, hairdryers, and shavers are in good condition and unplugged when not in use.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

14. Large appliances such as laundry machines and refrigerators are accessible and in good condition.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

15. All outlets and switches are covered so that there is no exposed wiring.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

16. All cords are placed out of the flow of traffic.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

17. Cords are out from beneath carpeting and furniture.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

18. Cords are not attached to walls or baseboards with nails or staples.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

19. Cords are in good condition (not frayed or cracked).

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

20. Extension cords carry a proper load.

Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___

Comment:

**THE COUGAR HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER PERSONS-
VERSION 1.0**

Water temperature

21. The temperature is 120 degrees or lower.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

FLOORING

22. Floor surfaces are not excessively slippery or in poor condition.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
23. Carpeting is firmly attached and in good condition.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
24. All small rugs and runners are slip-resistant.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

LIGHTING

25. The person does not have to walk through a dark area to reach a light switch.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
26. Hallways, passageways between rooms, and other heavy traffic areas are well lit.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
27. Night lights are present and in working order.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

KITCHEN

28. Flammable objects such as towels or curtains are located away from the stove.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
29. There is no excessive grease or clutter on or around the stove.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
30. It is safe to reach for dials on the stove.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
31. The exhaust system for the stove works properly.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

**THE COUGAR HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER PERSONS-
VERSION 1.0**

32. Commonly used items are stored in locations that can be easily and safely reached.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

BATHROOM

33. There is a nonskid mat outside the bathtub or shower area.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
34. There is a non-slip surface, a nonskid mat, or abrasive strips in the bathtub or shower.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
35. There is at least one grab bar present and properly installed in the bathtub or shower.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
36. The toilet height allows for safe transferring.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
37. There is at least one grab bar present and properly installed beside the toilet.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

STAIRS

38. Steps are not excessively slippery and in good condition.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
39. Steps are even and of the same size and height.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
40. The covering on the stairs are firmly attached and in good condition.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
41. Railings are present and sturdy.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
42. There is adequate lighting.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

**THE COUGAR HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER PERSONS-
VERSION 1.0**

43. The stairs are free of clutter.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

ELEVATOR

44. The distance from the elevator to the apartment is manageable.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
45. The buttons in the elevator are accessible.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

CLOSETS AND STORAGE AREAS

46. Closets and storage areas are well lit.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
47. Commonly used items can be easily reached.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
48. The attic, if used, is accessible.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

WORK/ACTIVITY AREA AND GARAGE

49. There is adequate lighting in work areas in the house or apartment.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
50. The garage is well lit.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
51. All chemical products are properly stored.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

**THE COUGAR HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENT FOR OLDER PERSONS-
VERSION 1.0**

PARKING AREA AND ENTRANCE

52. The parking area and the entrance to the house or apartment are well lit.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
53. The parking area and the entrance are easily accessible.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
54. Walkways and stairs leading to the entrance are clear and in good condition.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
55. Walkways leading to the mailbox are clear and in good condition.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:
56. Garbage is kept in an accessible place and disposed of regularly.
Safe ___ Unsafe ___ N/A ___
Comment:

SAFETY SCORE

# Safe	
# Unsafe	
# Not/Applicable	
FINAL SAFETY SCORE:	
Percent Safe= {# Safe} ÷ {56 minus # Not Applicable}	

Note: From: Safety for Older Consumers Home Safety Checklist, by Consumer Product Safety Commission. (N.D.) Retrieved on November 23, 2003 from <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/701.html>. (Adapted with permission- this document is in the public domain).

Note. From Safety Assessment of Function and the Environment for Rehabilitation (SAFER) Tool, by T. Chiu, R. Oliver, L. Marshall, & L. Letts, 2001, Ontario, Canada: Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services. Copyright 2001 by Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Mental Health Services. Adapted with Permission.