

Today's Vision, Tomorrow's Reality

2015

**Maine Affordable
Housing Conference**

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Cross Insurance Center, Bangor



HEALTHY MAINE HOMES



What is the Healthy Home Rating System (HHRIS)?

- 🏠 The HHRIS is based upon the successful Home Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) developed by the United Kingdom (UK) for use in evaluating risks posed to residents from conditions found in the home. The HHRIS follows the same qualitative approach to identifying health and safety hazards in the home. HHRIS uses a risk-assessment methodology and is a system (not a standard) developed to enable risks from hazards to health and safety in dwellings to be removed or minimized.



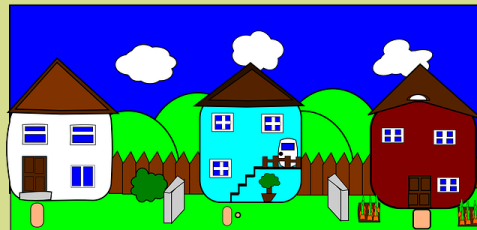
About the HHRS

🏠 The HHRS addresses all the key issues that affect health and safety. The HHRS provides an analysis of just how hazardous a dwelling is and provides evidence and statistical information to assist assessors in making their judgments.



About the HHRS

- Each year, housing conditions in the US are implicated in thousands of deaths and hundreds of thousands of illnesses and injuries requiring medical attention. The HHRS provides a method of grading the severity of threats to health and safety in any dwelling. The key principle of the system is that a dwelling, including the structure and associated outbuildings and/or other amenity space, and means of access, should provide a safe and healthy environment for the occupants and, by implication, for any visitors.



What are the hazards?

🏠 The HHRS is categorized in accordance with the American Academy of Public Health's 1938 publication entitled, "Healthful Principles of a Home." The HHRS examines 29 hazards, or categories of hazards: summarized as follows:



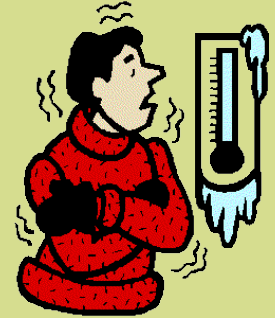
1. Damp and Mold growth

🏠 Caused by dust mites, mold or fungal growth caused by dampness and/or high humidity. It includes threats to mental health and social wellbeing caused by living with damp, damp staining and/or mold growth.

Most vulnerable: 14 years or less



2. Excess cold



🏠 Caused by excessively cold indoor temperatures. **Most vulnerable: 65 years or older**

3. Excess heat

Caused by excessively high indoor air temperatures. **Most vulnerable: 65 years or older**

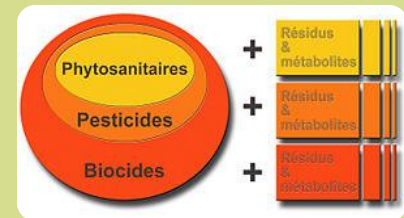


4. Asbestos, Silica and other MMF



- Caused by excessive levels of silica, asbestos and man-made mineral fibers (MMF). **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**

5. Biocides



- Threats to health from those chemicals used to treat timber and mold growth in dwelling. While biocides include Insecticides and rodenticides to control pest infestations (e.g. cockroaches or rats and mice), these are not considered for the purposes of the HHRT. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**



6. Carbon monoxide and fuel combustion products



- Excess levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and smoke in the dwelling's atmosphere.

Most vulnerable: For CO-65 years plus; For NO₂, SO₂ & smoke – no specific group

7. Lead

- Ingestion from lead--paint dust, debris or leaded water pipes. **Most vulnerable:** 6 years or younger



8. Radiation



- 🏠 This category covers the threats to health from radon gas and its daughters, primarily airborne, but also radon dissolved in water. **Most vulnerable: All persons aged 60- 64**

9. Uncombusted fuel gas

- 🏠 Fuel gas escaping into the atmosphere within a dwelling. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**

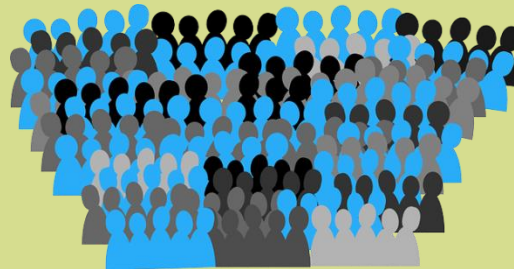


10. Volatile Organic Compounds

- 🏠 (VOCs) are a diverse group of organic chemicals which includes formaldehyde, that are gaseous at room temperature, and are found in a wide variety of materials in the home. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**

11. Crowding and Space

- 🏠 This category covers hazards associated with lack of space within the dwelling for living, sleeping and normal family/household life. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**



12. Entry by Intruders



- 🏠 Difficulties in keeping a dwelling secure against unauthorized entry and the maintenance of defensible space. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**

14. Lighting

- 🏠 This category covers the threats to physical and mental health associated with inadequate natural and/or artificial light. It includes the psychological effect associated with the view from the dwelling. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**



15. Domestic Hygiene, Pests and Refuse

🏠 Covers hazards which can result from poor design, layout and construction such that the dwelling cannot be readily kept clean and hygienic; access into, and harborage within, the dwelling for pests; and inadequate and unhygienic provision for storing and disposal of household waste. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**



16. Food Safety



- ⚠ Threats of infection resulting from inadequacies in provision and facilities for the storage, preparation and cooking of food. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**

17. Personal Hygiene, Sanitation and Drainage

- ⚠ Threats of infection and threats to mental health associated with personal hygiene, including personal washing and clothes washing facilities, sanitation and drainage. It does not include problems with pests associated with defective drainage facilities. **Most vulnerable: Children under 5 years**





18. Water Supply

- 🏠 Covers the quality and adequacy of the supply of water within the dwelling for drinking and for domestic purposes such as cooking, washing, cleaning and sanitation. As well as the adequacy, it includes threats to health from contamination by bacteria, protozoa, parasites, viruses, and chemical pollutants. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**

19. Falls associated with Baths etc.

- 🏠 This category includes any fall associated with a bath, shower or similar facility. **Most vulnerable: 60 years or older**



20. Falling on Level Surfaces etc.

- 🏠 This category covers falling on any level surface such as floors, yards, and paths. It also includes falls associated with trip steps, thresholds, or ramps, where the change in level is less than 12 inches or 300mm. **Most vulnerable: 60 years or older**

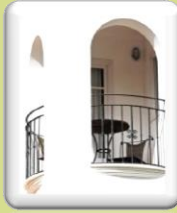


21. Falling on Stairs etc.

- 🏠 This category covers any fall associated with a stairs, steps and ramps where the change in level is greater than 12 inches or 300mm. **Most vulnerable: 60 years or older**



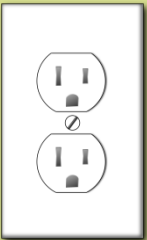
22. Falling between Levels



- 🏠 This category covers falls from one level to another, inside or outside a dwelling, where the difference in levels is more than 12 inches or 300mm. It includes, for example, falls out of windows, falls from balconies or landings, falls from accessible roofs, into basement wells, and over garden retaining walls. **Most vulnerable: 5 years or younger**

23. Electrical Hazards

- 🏠 This category covers hazards from shock and burns resulting from exposure to electricity, including from lightning strikes. (It does not include risks associated with fire caused by deficiencies to the electrical installations, such as ignition of material by a short circuit.) **Most vulnerable: 5 years or younger**



24. Fire



- 🏠 This category covers threats from exposure to uncontrolled fire and associated smoke at a dwelling. **Most vulnerable: 60 years or older**

25. Flames, Hot Surfaces etc.

- 🏠 This category covers threats of burns – injuries caused by contact with a hot flame or fire, and contact with hot objects or hot non---water based liquids; and scalds–injuries caused by contact with hot liquids and vapors. It includes burns caused by clothing catching alight from a controlled fire or flame. **Most vulnerable: 5 years or younger**





26. Collision and Entrapment

- 🏠 This category includes risks of physical injury from trapping body parts in architectural features, such as trapping limbs or fingers in doors or windows; and striking (colliding with) objects such as architectural glazing, windows, doors, low ceilings and walls. **Most vulnerable: 5 years or younger (16)**

27. Explosions

- 🏠 This category covers the threat from the blast of an explosion, from debris generated by the blast, and from the partial or total collapse of a building as the result of an explosion. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**



28. Position and Operability of Amenities etc.



- 🏠 This category covers threats of physical strain associated with functional space and other features at dwellings. **Most vulnerable: 60 years or older**

29. Structural Collapse and Falling Elements



- 🏠 Covers the threat of whole dwelling collapse, or of an element or a part of the fabric being displaced or falling because of inadequate fixing, disrepair, or as a result of adverse weather conditions. Structural failure may occur internally or externally within the curtilage threatening occupants, or externally outside the curtilage putting at risk members of the public. **Most vulnerable: No Specific Group**

