

HAVING A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

Taking the time to plan for a home fire escape can mean the difference between life and death.

With only minutes to escape, it is extremely important that everyone know immediately what to do, thus the importance of planning and practice!

Plan



Develop an escape plan for your home—use the attached grid to help you draw a floor plan or map of your home. Be sure to mark two ways out of each room.

Plan ahead for special needs for infants, children, disabled, or the elderly who may need additional help when escaping. Be sure to include these provisions in the fire escape plan and that it is discussed with family members.

Select a special meeting place a safe distance from the home. This is where everyone meets in the event of a fire.

Discuss what to do if you become trapped and cannot escape. Close doors between you and the smoke. To keep smoke out, stuff the cracks under the door and cover vents if possible. Stay low near the window and signal with a sheet or flashlight or something visible.

Remind everyone...**NEVER** go back into a burning building!

Prepare



Install smoke detectors on every level and in all bedrooms. Test them monthly and change the battery each year.

Make sure all family members, even the children, practice opening windows to become familiar with their operation.

If there are bars on the windows, make sure they have a quick release device, opening from the inside.

Bedroom doors should be closed while people are sleeping. It takes fire 10 to 15 minutes to burn through a wooden door...extra time you can use to escape!



Practice

At least twice a year, practice your home fire escape plan with a “dress” rehearsal.

- Have each family member in his or her bed with doors closed.
- Turn all the lights off.
- Activate the smoke detector by depressing the test switch.
- Have each family member yell the alert when they hear the detector. This may also help “awaken” those family members that are deep sleepers.
- Exit their room according to plan—crawl low under the smoke, and practice feeling the door for heat using the back of the hand.
- Meet in the designated location outside the home.
- Once outside, remind everyone that this is the time to call 911 to alert the fire department.

Have children practice saying the family name and the street address into the telephone.



