



HOW TO MAKE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

- Consider drawing a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room and find two ways out, in case one exit is blocked or unsafe.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a place outside where everyone will meet. It should be in front of your home so emergency workers can find you.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn to call 9-1-1. You can text 9-1-1 if there is no cell service to call.
- Practice getting out of your home in less than 2 minutes.
- Learn to use the back of your hand to check doors for heat before opening. If the door is hot, use a different exit or keep the door closed until help arrives.

Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.



Find Two Ways Out of Each Room

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HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



Plan ahead. Get out quickly and safely.

Learn to safely escape if there is a fire in your home.

- Gather everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they have escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Go outside to see if your house number can be seen from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or stick one next to the door so the firefighters can find your home.
- If there are babies, older adults, or family members that have trouble walking, make sure that someone is assigned to help them escape. Assign a backup person too, just in case the other person is not home.
- If windows or doors have security bars, make sure the bars have an emergency release option to be opened right away in an emergency. They won't make windows less secure and will increase your chances of safely getting out.

Once you're out, stay out!

- Never ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, tell the 9-1-1 operator or the fire department when they arrive. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

Practice your plan.

- Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year, making the drill as realistic as possible.
- Help children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping. The goal is to practice, not to frighten, so telling children there will be a drill before they go to bed can be good as a surprise drill.
- Always choose the escape route that is safest – the one with the least amount of smoke and heat – but be prepared to escape under toxic smoke if needed. When you do your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice getting low and going under the smoke to your exit.

Fire travels fast. Keep escape routes clear and clutter-free to prevent slowing your escape and avoid causing injuries to you, your family and the first responders.

Smoke alarms save lives.

They are an important part of a home fire escape plan.

