

Home Fire Escape Planning

- **Know at least two ways out** from every room or space in your home. Make sure all doors and windows open easily. Windows or doors with security bars should have an emergency release device so they open easily from the inside in an emergency.
- **Crawl low in smoke.** Smoke rises so the air near the floor will be clearer. It will be easier to see and breathe near the floor.
- **Feel doors before opening them.** If the door is hot, do not open it. If the door is cool, stay low as you open it. There still may be heat, smoke or fire on the other side.
- **Leave immediately.** Don't stop for anything. No possessions are worth your life. Close doors behind you as you leave.
- If you cannot leave a room, make sure the door is closed and go to the window. Open it or break it out and exit if you can. If you can't exit the window because it's too high from the ground, use a bed sheet, towel, etc. to wave and yell to attract attention. If necessary, use towels, clothing, pillows, etc. to block smoke coming through door cracks or vents.
- **Have a family meeting place outside.** Count to ensure everyone is out safely.
- **Once you are out, stay out.** Never go back inside for anyone or anything. Tell the fire department where missing persons may be located.
- **Call the fire department** once you are out safely. The emergency number is 911. Call from a neighbor's home or a cell phone.



Additional Home Escape Planning Tips

- Have working photoelectric smoke detectors. Remember, you can't start your escape until you are aware there is a fire! Install photoelectric smoke detectors on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. Consider wired or wireless interconnected photoelectric smoke detectors. When one sounds, they will all sound. Make sure everyone knows what your smoke detectors sound like and can hear them from all areas.
- Practice your escape plan at least once a year. Try different ways out. Try it with your eyes closed or in the dark. Have someone push the smoke detector button to start your drill.
- Consider an escape ladder for windows too high to jump from. They are available at local hardware stores.
- Consider and plan for family members with special needs. The fire department can assist you in your escape planning.
- Make sure your house address can be seen from the street.
- In multi-story buildings like apartments, condos or hotels, make sure you learn the building's escape plan and where the fire alarms are located. Know where the stairs are located. Never use elevators during a fire.
- Share your plan with babysitters, friends or anyone else who may be staying at your house.

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