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MAKING A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Fire is one of the most common disasters and one of the deadliest. However, with proper planning, it does not need to be. By creating a comprehensive fire emergency plan, you and your family can greatly reduce your chances of being injured in a fire.



FIREPROOF YOUR HOME

Use Smoke Detectors

- Smoke detectors should be installed on every level of your home as well as in the basement.
- Place one smoke detector outside each sleeping area in your home.
- Keep smoke detectors away from cooking vapors to prevent false or nuisance alarms.
- Proper placement is on the ceiling. However, if a wall must be used, install the detector(s) at a minimum distance of 4" and a maximum distance of 12" from the ceiling.
- Be sure that any unit you purchase is UL listed.
- Smoke detectors should be routinely replaced every 10 years.

Test Your Smoke Detectors

- Test each smoke detector in your home at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace the batteries twice a year.

Have a Properly Operating Fire Extinguisher in the Kitchen

- Regularly check the fire extinguisher to ensure that it is properly charged.
- Use the test button or gauge to check proper pressure level.
- If the extinguisher is damaged, corroded or low on pressure, have it professionally serviced.
- Your local fire department may be able to provide you with additional fire extinguisher training.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE PATHS

Identify Two Escape Paths From Each Room in Your Home

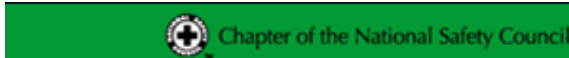
- If there is smoke in your first path, use your second option.
- If you must exit through smoke, stay low where the air is fresher and easier to breathe.
- If you must open a closed door, feel it before opening. If it is hot, use your second option.
- If heat, flames or smoke block your escape paths, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help at the window using a bright-colored cloth. If there is a telephone in the room call 911 and give your location.

- Determine whether a ladder is needed for your plan. If it is, make sure everyone knows how to set it up and use it.
- Designate a family meeting place outside the home
- Once you are out, stay out
- Practice your escape plan at least two times per year.

Acknowledgments:

American Red Cross

[National Fire Protection Association](#)



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