

HOME ESCAPE PLAN BASICS

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

- Draw a floor plan of your home
- Indicate two exits from every room, including doors, windows, stairs, halls, balconies and roofs.
- Show the locations of smoke alarms and mark utility locations on the plan (gas, electric and water)
- Include an emergency escape ladder for second and third story windows.
- If you have security bars on doors or windows, ensure they have a “quick-release” latch and that everyone in your household knows how to use them.

PRACTICE DRILLS

- Practice your family’s escape plan at least twice a year.
- Hold daytime and nighttime drills.
- If anyone does not readily awaken to alarms, or there are infants or family members with disabilities, make sure someone is assigned to assist them.
- Make your escape realistic. Practice different scenarios and alternative escape routes.
- Designate a place outside your home where members of your household will gather after a fire.

GETTING OUT

Once a fire starts, it spreads rapidly. Normal exits, halls and stairways become filled with intense heat, poisonous gases and blinding smoke. At first sign of smoke or fire:

- If you encounter smoke when using primary exit, use an alternative escape route.
- If you must exit through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees, keeping your head 12-24 inches above the floor.
- Test doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If it’s warm to the touch use another escape route. If it’s cool, open with caution.
- Once out, stay out. Never go back into the home.
- Call 911 from a neighbor’s phone.

If You’re Trapped:

- If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Stuff the cracks around the door to keep smoke out. Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or by waving a light colored cloth. If there’s a phone in the room, call 911 and report your exact location.