



# Fire Safety Tips for People with Disabilities

Most fire deaths happen in the home. Everyone should have a fire escape plan and practice how to get outside.

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- Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even put out a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive. When choosing an apartment or remodeling or purchasing a home, look for a residence that has home fire sprinklers.
- Include everyone in planning and practicing home fire drills. People with disabilities can provide input on the best methods for them to escape.
- People with disabilities should discuss what assistance they may need with everyone in the home (and with neighbors).
- In an apartment building, know the location of all exit stairs and arrange for assistance in case of an emergency.
- Choose an outside meeting place for everyone to meet after escaping.
- Keep a telephone or phone with TDD (telecommunication device for the deaf) in the sleeping room within reach of the bed.
- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home. For the best protection, interconnect all the smoke alarms so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Smoke alarms and alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are deaf. Strobe lights throughout the home are activated by smoke alarms and alert people who are deaf to fire conditions. When people who are deaf are asleep, a high-intensity strobe light along with a pillow shaker or a bed shaker can wake them up and alert them to fire conditions.
- Smoke alarm alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are hard of hearing. These accessories produce a loud, mixed low-pitched sound. This equipment is activated by the sound of the smoke alarm and is usually installed next to the bed. People who are hard of hearing may find that a pillow shaker or a bed shaker is also helpful to wake them.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button. If you are unable to safely reach the alarm, ask for help. Some alarms have features that make them easier to test, such as with a flashlight or the television remote.
- Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.