



Home Escape Planning Safety Tips

If a fire breaks out in your home, you have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know how to get outside if there is a fire.

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Visit each room and, if possible, find two ways out. Mark the ways out on the escape plan.
- All windows and doors should open easily and should not be blocked by furniture or clutter. Make sure the escape routes are clear. 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. If you cannot safely reach the smoke alarm, ask for help. Everyone in your home should be able to recognize the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Choose an outside meeting place. It should be in front of and away from your home and should be something permanent, such as a tree or a neighbor's house. Everyone should agree to meet at the meeting place after they escape.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows the fire department's emergency number.
- Assign someone to help any household members who may have difficulty getting out alone.



- Everyone in the home should practice the escape drill together at least twice a year. Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Tell house guests about your fire escape plan.
- Prepare for a real fire. When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside immediately.
- Once you're outside, stay outside. Leave the firefighting to the professionals.
- Remember, get out first and then call for help. Never go back inside until the fire department gives the OK. Things can be replaced—YOU cannot.
- If smoke or fire blocks one of your ways out, use another way out. If you must go through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to escape.