

Surviving a Fire in Your Home

Take the time now to prepare — it can save lives!

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

Smoke Alarms

- Install a smoke alarm outside of each sleeping area and on each additional level of your home.
- Install smoke alarms INSIDE sleeping areas if people sleep with their doors closed.
- Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing test buttons.
- If an alarm fails the test or starts making beeping noises, replace batteries immediately.
- Replace ALL smoke alarm batteries at least once a year.



Fire Extinguishers

- Consider purchasing one or more fire extinguishers to keep in your home.
- Read the instructions to understand how your fire extinguisher works, and make sure all family members understand how to use it.
- Read the instructions to find out how to check if your extinguisher is in working order, and how frequently it needs to be checked.

Escape Ladders

- Consider installing escape ladders for upstairs rooms.
- Learn how to use your escape ladder.
- Store ladders close to windows.

Flashlights

- Keep flashlights throughout your house and make sure everyone knows where they are located.
- Check batteries regularly.

PLANNING CAN PREVENT PANIC

Escape Routes

- Figure out at least two ways for escaping for every room in your home.
- Everyone living in your home should be familiar with these escape routes.

Practice

- At least twice a year, practice using your escape plans.

- Practice crawling because you may need to escape by crawling under smoke, where the freshest air will be.

Meeting Place

- Decide on a location where everyone will meet outside your home after escaping from a fire.
- A meeting place is important so that you can quickly see if everyone has escaped.

IF A FIRE OCCURS...

Making Your Escape

- If there is smoke or fire in one escape route, use another route.
- If there is no way to avoid smoke, remember to stay low and crawl under the smoke, where the freshest air will be.
- If you want to escape by opening a closed door, FIRST check to see if the door feels warm before opening it. If it is warm, do NOT open the door. Instead, use another route.

Blocked Escape Routes

If all of your escape routes are blocked by smoke, heat or flames:

- Stay in the room and keep any doors closed.
- Keep out smoke by piling rugs, blankets or pillows along the bottom of any doors.
- If there is a phone in the room, call 911 and tell them where you are.
- Signal out a window for help using a brightly-colored cloth, sheet, towel, or flashlight.
- Stay as close to the floor as possible, near a window or door.

After Escaping

- Go to a neighbor's house and call 911 as soon as possible.
- NEVER go back inside a burning house. Once you're outside, stay outside!
- When firefighters arrive, tell them if you think anyone is still inside.

