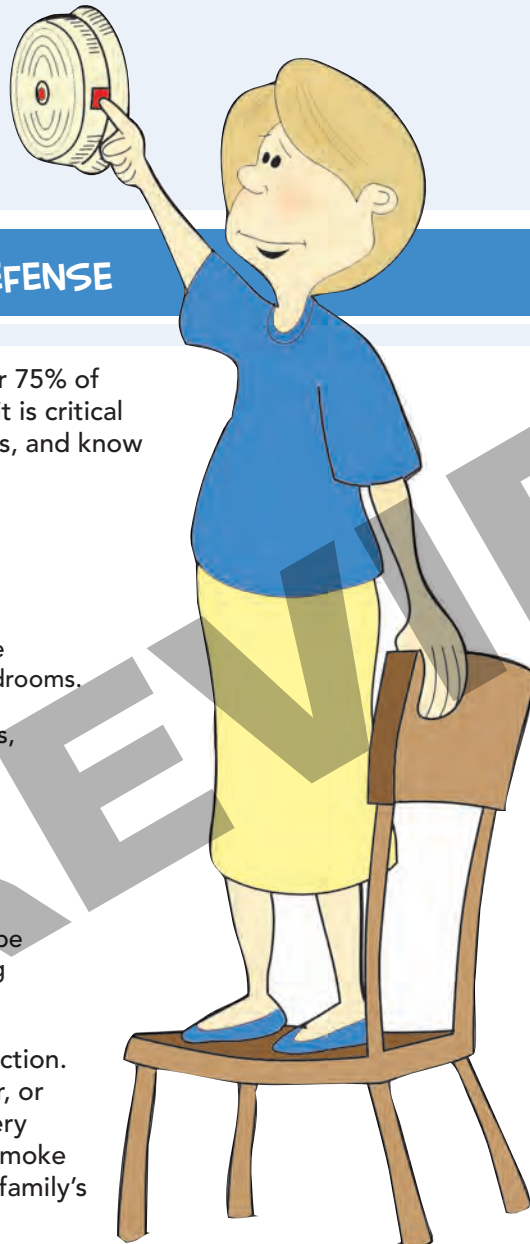


Over 3900 people die from fires each year – more people than all natural disasters combined. Children under 5 and adults over 70 are twice as likely to die in a fire emergency. Every second counts. A small fire can rage out of control in less than 30 seconds. Within minutes your entire home can be filled with thick smoke and toxic gases. What's worse, the majority of residential fires happen at night, when most people are asleep.

YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM TRAGEDY BY:

- Installing and maintaining Smoke Alarms
- Preparing a Fire Evacuation Plan
- Practicing regular Fire Drills
- Remembering key Safe Escape Tips



SMOKE ALARMS YOUR BEST DEFENSE

Inhaling toxic smoke, not the fire itself, causes over 75% of fire related deaths. As most fires happen at night, it is critical that you install and properly maintain smoke alarms, and know what to do when the smoke alarms sounds.

- Purchase smoke alarms approved by a test organization, such as Underwriter's Laboratory.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. For extra protection, place smoke alarms outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms.
- Avoid placing smoke alarms in kitchens, bathrooms, next to doorways or near air conditioning vents.
- Install smoke alarms on the ceiling in the center of the room or hallway, or high on the wall. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Young children and the hearing impaired may not be able to hear the smoke alarm. Consider purchasing alarms with a strobe light or vibrating alarm.

A smoke alarm with dead batteries offers no protection. Change smoke alarm batteries at least twice a year, or whenever the alarm "chirps" indicating a low battery condition. One each month, you should test your smoke alarms to ensure they are working properly – your family's lives depend on it.

Each year there are millions of fires, thousands of deaths, tens of thousands of injuries and billions of dollars in lost property. Residential fires are very serious and a very real threat. Develop and practice a fire escape plan. Give yourself and your family a better chance to survive if the unthinkable happens to you.

HOME FIRE DRILLS:

PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE PLAN



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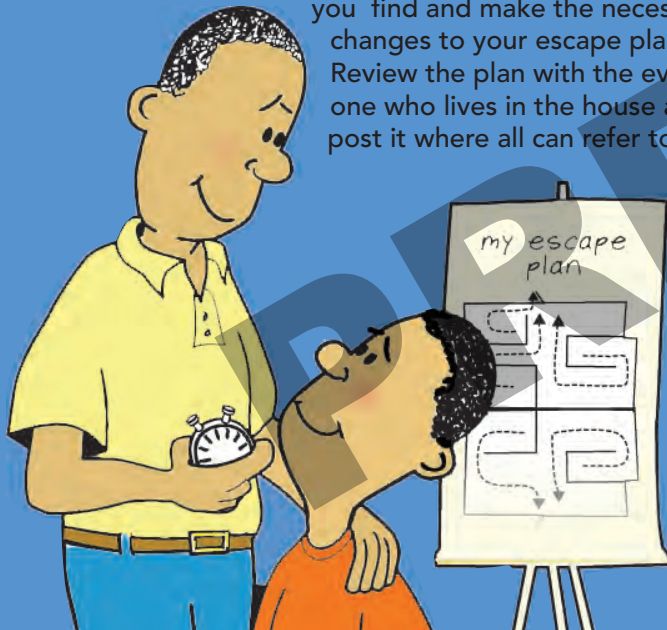
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PREPARE THE PLAN

The goal of a fire escape plan is to get your family out alive in the event of a fire emergency. Draw a map of your home showing all exits, doors and windows, as well as every room, hall and stairway. Find two ways out of every room and mark them on the map. Pick a safe meeting place, safely away from the home, and show it on the plan. Everyone should go to the safe meeting place where you can take a head count. This is the only way to ensure that everyone has escaped the fire. The very young and the very old may need assistance in safely evacuating. Pick someone to assist those who need extra help.

CHECK THE PLAN

Walk through your home, using the plan, and simulate escaping from each room. Do doors and windows open easily? If you have security bars on windows or doors, do they have quick-release latches for a fast exit? Are halls and stairways free from obstructions? If escaping from an upstairs window, do you have an approved fire escape ladder? Correct any problems you find and make the necessary changes to your escape plan. Review the plan with the every one who lives in the house and post it where all can refer to it.



As time passes, children get older and things may change around your home. It is important to periodically review your fire escape plan and make the necessary adjustments to ensure its effectiveness.



PRACTICE. PRACTICE. PRACTICE.

Creating a fire escape plan is a good first step, but to be ready for a fire you must practice your plan often. When the smoke alarm sounds, only seconds stand between you and tragedy. When you first develop your escape plan, practice it many times to make sure everyone knows the fastest way out. Fire is unpredictable, so as you practice your drills rule out different exits as being blocked by fire or smoke. Since most fires happen at night, it is important to also have drills at night. If your escape plan calls for the use of an escape ladder, practice using it from the safety of a ground floor window. Once everyone is familiar with the escape plan, you should hold practice drills at least twice a year.

GET OUT - STAY OUT: SAFE ESCAPE TIPS

SLEEP WITH BEDROOM DOORS CLOSED. IT TAKES A WHILE FOR FIRE TO BURN THROUGH A CLOSED DOOR GIVING YOU PRECIOUS EXTRA TIME TO ESCAPE.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE ALARM, ROLL OUT OF BED, BEING CAREFUL TO STAY UNDER ANY SMOKE OR TOXIC GAS.

DON'T LOOK FOR VALUABLES OR WASTE TIME GETTING DRESSED. TIME IS SHORT - GET OUT FAST!

CRAWL LOW IN SMOKE. THERE IS AN AREA OF BREATHABLE AIR BETWEEN 12 TO 24 INCHES FROM THE FLOOR.

USE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND TO CHECK THE DOOR, DOORKNOB AND HINGES FOR HEAT.

IF THE DOOR IS HOT, DON'T OPEN IT! USE YOUR SECOND WAY OUT.

IF THE DOOR IS COOL, BRACE YOURSELF BEHIND THE DOOR, OPEN IT SLOWLY, AND PEEK OUT TO SEE IF THERE IS FIRE OR SMOKE.

IF YOUR CLOTHES SHOULD CATCH FIRE: STOP, DROP TO THE GROUND, COVER YOUR FACE WITH YOUR HANDS, AND ROLL SIDE TO SIDE TO PUT THE FIRE OUT.

EXIT THE BUILDING AT ONCE AND GO TO YOUR SAFE MEETING PLACE.

SEND ONE PERSON TO CONTACT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

NEVER GO BACK INSIDE A BURNING BUILDING FOR ANY REASON!

