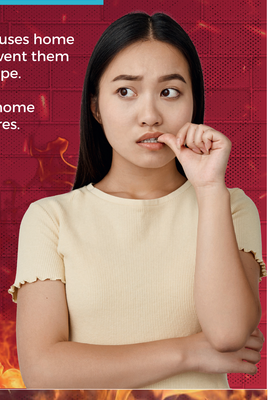
MAINTAIN A CLEAR ESCAPE ROUTE

1. Make sure your evacuation paths are unblocked at all times.
2. Things like furniture or clutter in front of exits could prevent someone from escaping. They can make it harder for you or your loved ones to see the exit. If the obstacles catch on fire, they can block off paths to safety.
3. Make sure all windows and doors open properly as they can also be critical escape routes.

WHAT CAUSES HOME FIRES?

Knowledge is power. Knowing what causes home fires can help you take the steps to prevent them so that you never have to make an escape.

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, starting nearly 50% of all fires.
- Heating is the second highest cause, followed by electrical and intentional fires.
- Smoking is the fifth highest cause, but it is the leading cause of fire deaths.



GET OUT AND STAY OUT

When you hear smoke alarms, get out. Once you're out, never re-enter the burning building for any reason.

Keep cell phones charged and close by. It's important to be able to immediately call emergency services.

Escape first, then call 9-1-1 when you're at a safe distance.

If there is no way out, seal yourself in. Close your doors and seal the edges with anything you can find. Block air vents and open any windows for fresh air. If possible, let the fire department know your exact location.

THE SAFEST ESCAPE IS TO PREVENT FIRES

The best way to protect yourself and your family from fire is to prevent them from happening. To do this, follow basic rules about home fire prevention.

Electrical fires

Never overload electrical outlets and check cords and plugs for wear.

Cooking fires

Be alert. Stay in the kitchen. Keep flammable materials at least three feet from the stove.

Heating fires

Use a fire screen on fireplaces. Ensure fires are completely out before leaving. Have a minimum distance of three feet between heat sources and combustible material.

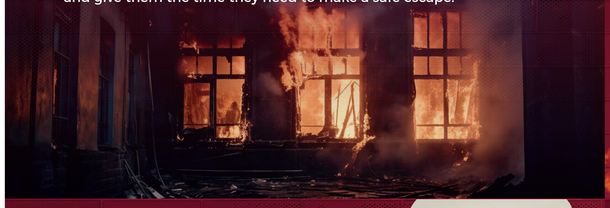
PLAN FOR A SAFE ESCAPE

Explain to your children why practicing home fire drills is important.

Teach them how to escape from every room. If adults are unable to reach them, they need to know how to escape alone.

REMEMBER THAT EVERYTHING CAN BE REPLACED EXCEPT FOR A HUMAN LIFE.

Get them in the habit of sleeping with their door closed. This can help prevent the smoke and fire from spreading into their room and give them the time they need to make a safe escape.



CLOSED DOORS SAVE LIVES

When evacuating, close doors behind you.

A closed door may contain the fire and reduce fire damage. It also helps keep the temperature down and the fire out.

Closed doors can reduce the levels of deadly carbon monoxide gas by up to 90%.

Keeping doors closed not only helps you to make a safe escape, it helps protect the lives of those you love.

HAVE A MAP. HAVE A PLAN.

Because there is not much time to think or act, it is vital to prepare in advance and educate yourself about fire safety in your home before you ever have to face it in real life.

Draw a map of your home that shows all walls, floors, doors, and windows. Mark at least two exits from each room.

Make sure everyone in your home knows how to escape in the event of a fire. Practice your escape plan twice a year, night and day. Make sure you practice different ways out from different rooms.

WHAT TO DO DURING A HOME FIRE

- Do not panic. Remember that this is what you have practiced for.
- Stay low to the ground.
- Do not waste time looking for objects.
- Go to the safe meeting place.
- If you feel heat on the door, do not open it. Crawl to your second way out.
- If the door is cool, open it slowly and look for smoke and flames. If clear, crawl quickly towards an exit.

Sample