

## Fire Safety:

### Things To Do!

Everyone in your household should know and practice these fire safety tips.

**The Door Test:** Kneel at the door. Reach up as high as you can and lightly touch the door, knob and crack around the door frame with the back of your hand. If they feel hot, do not open the door. Use another escape route. If they feel cool, open the door with caution.

**Trapped:** If you cannot get out of your room, close all doors between you and the fire. Stuff clothes in the cracks around the door to prevent smoke from entering. Signal from a window with a flashlight or something bright colored. If possible, call the fire department and notify them of your location.

**Get Out:** During a fire, do not stop to get dressed or rescue possessions or pets. Alert others if possible. Follow your planned escape route all the way through to your family meeting place. Then call the fire department from a cell phone, neighbor's phone or alarm box. Make sure every member of your family knows how to contact the fire department.

**Stay Low:** Heat rises carrying smoke and deadly gases with it. Even the heat itself can cause deadly damage to your lungs. Roll out of bed keeping your head as close to the floor as possible. Crawl on your hands and knees to your planned escape route, just as you practiced. If your primary route is blocked with smoke or fire, use your secondary route.

**Stay Out:** Once you are out of the house, stay outside. Alert the fire department of any people trapped inside. They have the best chance of rescuing others because they have the special equipment and training to enter a burning house.

**Stop, Drop and Roll:** Do not run if you think your clothes are on fire. Stop where you are. Drop to the ground. Cover your face with your hands and roll on the ground to smother the fire. All family members should practice this maneuver so when the panic of being on fire sets in you know what to do.

## Fire Safety:

### Checklist

Here is a basic checklist of things to do. Write the date next to the item as you practice it.

Change smoke alarm batteries  
(twice a year):

Test smoke alarms (monthly):

Replace smoke alarms (10 years):

Plan two escape routes from each room:

Practice escape routes (twice a year):

Pick a family meeting place:

Check for frayed or broken  
electrical cords (annually):

Have furnace professionally checked  
(prior to heating season):

Clean area around furnace (annually):

Inspect electrical box (annually):

Clean grease from stove top (monthly):

Check gas, paint and other flammable  
container lids for a good seal  
(twice a year):

Dispose of oil-soaked rags (after use):

## PLANNING

### How To Escape A Fire



### Planning and Practice

can make all the difference between a disaster and a tragedy. Follow these basic rules and practice the procedures to give everyone in your family the best chance to get out of a house fire alive.

# Fire Safety:

## Have a Plan & Practice it!

Fire can engulf a house in a matter of minutes. That is why every second counts. You must have a plan for escaping a fire and you should practice that plan.

**Two Ways Out:** Use this graph to draw your floor plan. Draw all floors. Mark two ways out of each room. If you live in a two story house, know the number of steps to downstairs. Also, know the location of the ladder or other means to reach the ground safely. If in an apartment, don't use the elevators. Use the stairways. Know the building evacuation plan and practice it as your own plan.

**Smoke Alarms:** Make sure the smoke alarms are in working order. Change batteries a couple of times each year. Familiarize the entire family with the alarm's sounds as you test them.

**Meeting Place:** Agree on a family meeting place outside your house where the family will meet so you can count heads and inform the fire department of your status.

**Realistic Drills:** Make fire drills as realistic as possible. Pretend some exits are blocked. Make it dark as if the house is smoke filled and the lights are out.

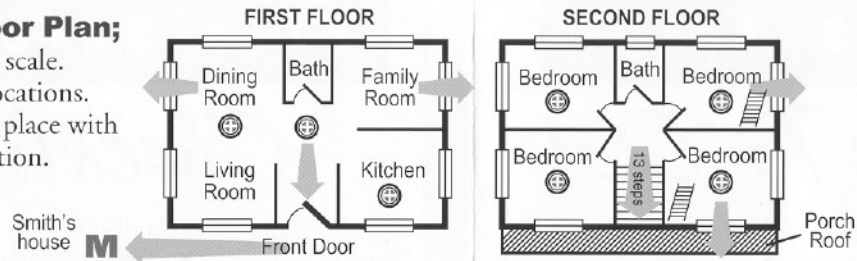
**Check Accessibility of Exits:** Make sure door locks and window latches can be reached by all members of your family. If not, make them accessible with steps or chairs, or pick another exit. Make special arrangements for children, older adults and those who have difficulty moving.

**Plan for the worst:** Sleep with your doors closed. This could give you the extra seconds needed for escape.

**Practice:** Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. The entire family should participate. Take things smoothly and steadily. Do not rush!

### Sample Floor Plan;

Need not be to scale.  
Put in ladder locations.  
Put in meeting place with  
written description.



A large grid for drawing a floor plan. A north arrow is in the top right corner.

Use this grid to draw your home's floor plan. Show two ways out of each room. Designate a safe meeting place outside your house where all family members should meet.