Make your family fire safe

Escape Planning

• Start by walking through your home and identifying **two ways out of <u>every room</u>** (one way might be the door and the other might be the window).

• Draw out your escape plan so you can post it where everyone in the family can see it. Use the planning grid included here. Don't forget to show the two exits from <u>each room</u>.

• Make sure that all exits are clear of toys, furniture and other clutter.

• Does someone in your house need help getting around (like a grandparent or an infant)? Make sure they have someone to assist them in case of a fire.

• Pick **<u>one</u>** outside meeting place where everyone can gather after they've escaped safely. Make sure you mark the spot you've picked on your escape plan.

• Make sure everyone knows to get out of the house first and then call 9-1-1 from outside or from a neighbor's house.

• Put your escape plan to the test at least twice a year.

• Practice <u>crawling</u> under smoke in case you must go through it to get outside. Smoke is nasty stuff -- even worse than fire itself. To keep from breathing bad air (and possibly, knocking yourself out), crawl low under the smoke on your hands and knees.

• Practice closing the door behind you to slow the spread of fire and smoke.

Smoke Alarms

• Your home should have smoke alarms on every level (even the basement). It's especially important to have them inside or near every sleeping area.

• Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

• Know your home's smoke alarms. When you hear the alarms "chirp," it may mean that the batteries are failing. It could mean that the alarms have become dusty. Vacuuming the face of the units may solve the problem. Some are outfitted with long-life batteries. When long-life batteries fail, replace the entire smoke alarm. Others are equipped with standard 9V batteries. These should be changed every year.

• All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. If no one can remember how old it is, then it's probably time to replace it.

• Never paint or decorate a smoke alarm (even with stickers!) because this could keep it from working.

• Make sure that everyone in your home knows the sound of the smoke alarm, and what to do if it sounds. Set-off the alarm at night to make sure that everyone wakes up. If they don't, make sure to factor that into the escape plan.

• When the alarm sounds, get out immediately! Always assume that the alarm means a real fire, and follow your escape plan.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

• Install and maintain CO alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement.

• CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms, CO alarms and low battery alarms.

• Test CO alarms monthly. Replace the alarm if it fails to activate in a test. Replace the alarm when it signals end-of-life or when recommended by the maufacturer's instructions.

For more information about these topics, see the National Fire Protection Association's web sites at *www.fpw.org* or *www.sparky.org*.

NORTH KITSAP FIRE & RESCUE

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360-297-3619 www.nkfr.org

Our Family's Home Fire Escape Plan

Name _____ **Date(s) plan practiced** _____

Teacher Name _____ **School Name** _____

How many smoke alarms do you have? _____

Date tested _____

How many of the alarms work? _____

Are the alarms more than ten years old? _____

Need assistance getting smoke alarms or smoke alarm batteries? Contact us at (360)297-3619; we'd be happy to help!

Replace alarms more than ten years old.

Does your plan include ...

- SA — **The location of every smoke alarm?**
- **Two ways out of every sleeping room?**
- ★ **One meeting place outside?**
- ☑ **The date(s) you practiced it?**