

Plan & Practice Your Escape!

Escape Planning

- Start by walking through your home and identifying two ways out of every room (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 each room.
- 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 **one** 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 crawling 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.



Need Help?

For home safety surveys and smoke alarm installations, call us!

To participate in the Escape Planning Contest

Download this document, print it and follow the directions above to create/update your family's fire escape plan using the grid on reverse. If your family is unable to print, we can print and mail the materials to you upon request to laboda@nkfr.org. Fill out the form at the top of the grid, scan or photograph the completed plan and email to laboda@nkfr.org. We'll review every plan and return it via email along with a certificate for a small prize that can be claimed at a later date. Correctly executed plans will be entered into a random drawing for gift certificates to local businesses.

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