

Home Fire Escape Planning

Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking **two ways out of each room**, including windows and doors.
- Mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- Have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Check that sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (a neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Be sure your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that emergency personnel can find your home.
- If there are infants, older adults or family members with mobility limitations make sure someone is assigned to assist them. Assign a backup person too.
- If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have quick-release mechanisms inside so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Quick-release mechanisms won't compromise your security - but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.
- Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately.
- **Once you're out, stay out!** Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.