

Prepare Your Family for Fire Emergencies



In only a matter of minutes, a small house fire can rage out of control, reaching temperatures of up to 1,500°F. In most cases, you have one to two minutes to get out safely.

We practice fire emergency drills at work and school, but don't forget to create and practice a home escape plan, as well. It is beneficial to keep your plan visible, like on the refrigerator, to help family and visitors remember what to do. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stresses that even children as young as 3 years old can understand an escape plan.



Helpful Planning Tips:

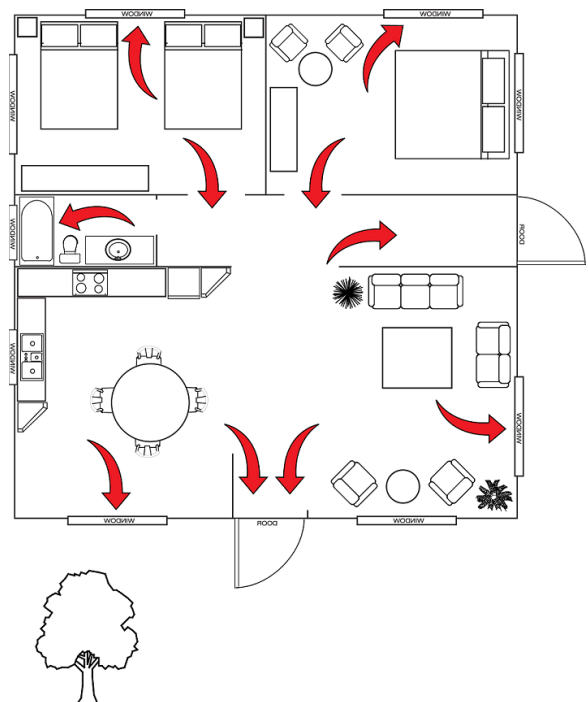
- Plan for two ways to escape from each room
- Pick a meeting location away from your home
- Plan for everyone in your home, including babies and others who may need help to escape
- Teach children not to hide during a fire; they must get out and stay out
- Practice your escape drill with everyone in your family at least twice a year

Ways to Stay Safe:

- Clear toys, furniture and other clutter from exits
- Check that windows open easily – fix any that stick
- Test the batteries in your smoke alarms monthly
- Be sure that security bars on doors and windows have a quick-release latch, and everyone knows how to open them

Special Considerations for Apartment Buildings:

- If you live in a multi-story apartment building, map out as many escape routes as possible to get to the stairways on your floor
- If you live in a high-rise, plan to use the stairs – never the elevator – to escape a fire
- A secondary route might be a window onto an adjacent roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper-story windows – purchase only collapsible ladders evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL)



Now, use the space on the following pages to create your home fire escape plan.