

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- » MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » PRACTICE using different ways out.
- » TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

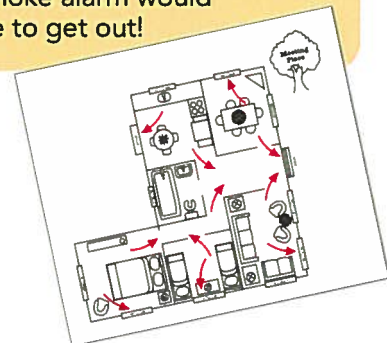
- » If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- » CALL the fire department from outside your home.



Your Source for SAFETY Information www.nfpa.org/education
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FACTS

- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!





E.D.I.T.H.

Exit Drills In The Home

Exit Drills In The Home can help people prepare for an emergency. Most home fires occur at night, when people are the least prepared. Home fires can become a disaster if you and your family are not familiar with how to escape during an emergency.

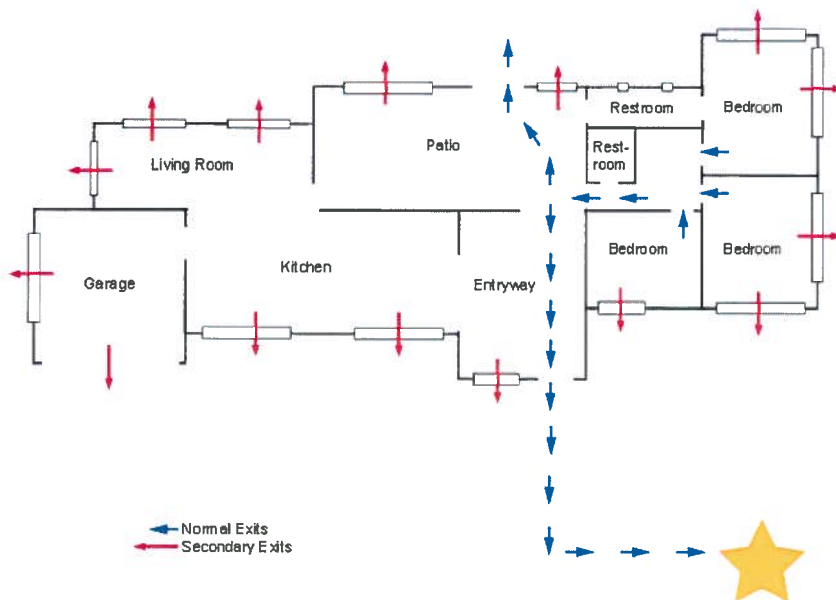
How to Design Your

Fire Escape Plan

To design your own fire escape plan, sketch the floor plan of your home on a piece of paper. Indicate on the plan all doors, windows and other areas from which you could escape from each room in your home. Draw arrows to indicate the normal exits which would be your primary escape route. With an alternate color, draw arrows to indicate a secondary exit from each room in the home.

Meeting Place

Choose a location outside the home where family members should meet once they have safely escaped. A neighbor's front yard or sidewalk may be an ideal meeting place.



Smoke Detectors

In California, all residents are required to have at least one operating smoke detector. The number of detectors you need and their location depends upon the layout of your home. There should be one smoke detector located near sleeping areas. It is also a good idea to have at least one detector on each level of your home, including the basement.

9-1-1

Everyone should know the location of telephones in the home and where to find a telephone outside of the home. It is very important that children also know the "911" phone number in order to report a fire or other emergencies to authorities.



Practice, Practice, Practice

Your fire escape plan may look great on paper, but does it really work? Regular exit drills in the home will allow you to test the plan and make adjustments as needed. When practicing your exit drills in the home, remember to use alternate escape routes as well. Children should be closely supervised during drills in the home and no one should take unnecessary chances.

Special Needs

People with physical or mental handicaps face greater risks during a fire emergency. People with special needs should sleep in a bedroom near someone who can help in the event of an emergency. A physically handicapped person may require a sleeping area on the ground floor. Design a special escape plan based on the abilities of the person.

Tips

- Prepare a fire escape plan
- Install and maintain smoke detectors
- Practice exit drills in the home regularly
- Examine your home for fire hazards and take steps to prevent a fire before it occurs

In 2006, 80 percent of all fire deaths were caused by home fires. Last year, roughly 2,600 people were killed by home fires and 12,500 were injured, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Advanced planning will ensure that you are ready for any fire emergency and can provide you and your loved ones peace of mind.

Learn more on fire safety education at:

www.fire.ca.gov

