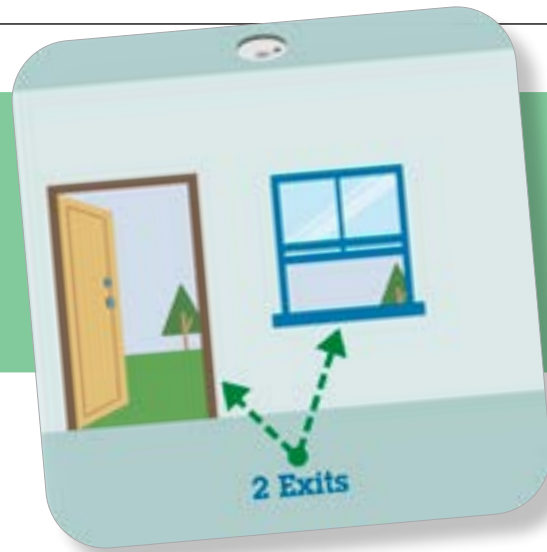


# Home Escape Planning

*Create and practice a home escape plan to save precious time in an emergency.*



## Home Fire Facts

- Most serious fires, fire injuries, and fire deaths take place at home.
- We have less time than ever before to escape a house fire.
- **Fire is fast!** A residential fire becomes deadly in three minutes or less.
- **Fire is dark!** House fires create heavy, choking smoke that can make it impossible to see or breathe.
- Working smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan are important tools for surviving a fire at home.

## Plan Your Escape

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Include all doors, windows, halls, stairways, and fire escapes that you can use to get outside.
- Plan your escape from every room in the house. Look for two ways out of the building, and two ways out of every room, if possible.
- Remember that a window can be used as an exit if you're on a lower floor.

- Discuss the plan with your family so everyone knows where to go and what to do in an emergency.

## Pick a Family Meeting Place

- Pick a family meeting place outside where everyone can gather after they escape. Choose a permanent landmark a safe distance from the front of your house.
- Be sure your house number can be seen clearly from the street.

## Practice, Practice, Practice

- Once you have an escape plan, practice it together. Make sure everyone can use the doors, windows, and stairways along your escape routes.

Practice the escape plan with each member of the family. Make sure everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

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- Always keep furniture and clutter away from doors, windows, and stairways along your escape routes. If you have security bars or child window guards, be sure they have quick-release features that can be operated from inside.
- Practice at least twice a year, during the day and at night, so everyone is familiar with the plan. Adjust the plan as necessary.
- Remember that older adults and young children may need assistance in an emergency. Carry infants and toddlers to safety.

### When an Alarm Sounds

- Check the door for heat with the back of your hand.
- If the door feels cool, open it slowly. If you don't see fire, crawl to escape. Signal others by calling or banging on walls.
- Do not open a hot door. Put a towel or blanket at the base of the door to keep smoke out. Crawl to a window and open it. Turn on a light.
- If you can safely reach the ground, exit through the window. Otherwise, shout for help. Don't jump. A firefighter's first priority is to rescue people.
- When you get out, stay out! Never re-enter a burning building. Call 9-1-1 when you're safe outside.

