

- Do not open a hot door. Place 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 and signal for help. Don't jump. A firefighter's first priority is to rescue people.

## Practice, Practice, Practice!

Conduct home fire escape drills frequently, at least twice a year, so actions become automatic behaviors.

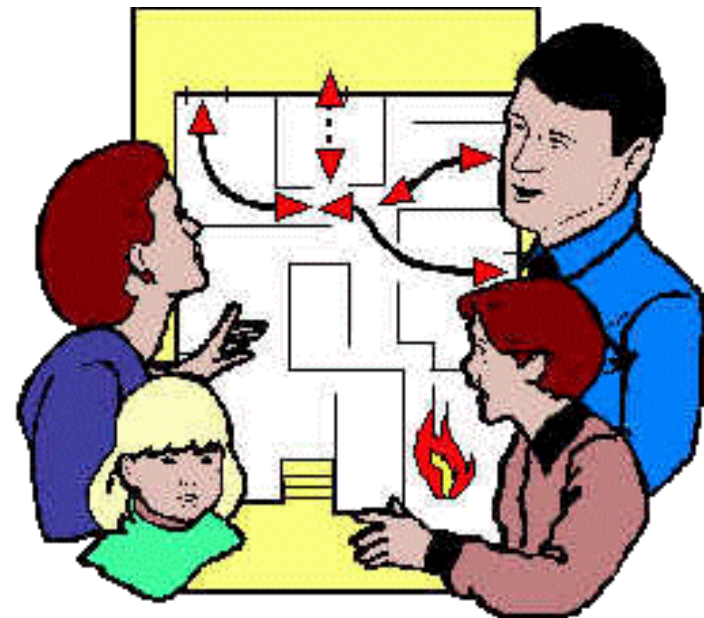
- Hold one family fire drill during the day when everyone is awake and a second drill at night when children are asleep to see how they will respond.
- After the drill, make necessary adjustments to your plan.
- Does someone in the household who is young or physically impaired need assistance? An adult can go to their room and help that person to escape.
- If a child sleeps through the alarm an adult has to wake them.
- Carry infants and toddlers to safety.

## When an Alarm Sounds

- Leave the building.
- Get out and stay out!
- Go to the family meeting place.
- Dial 911 from a neighbor's house.
- Wait at the meeting place for the fire department to arrive. Let them know if everyone is safe.



# Home Fire Escape Drills



Start with planning, then practice, practice, practice.



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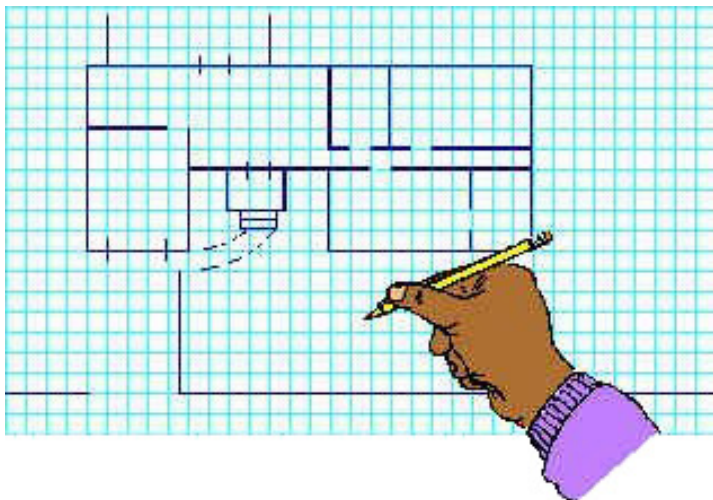
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES  
Stephen D. Coan • State Fire Marshal

## Home Fire Safety Facts

- Most fatal fires occur in the home.
- Having working smoke alarms and planning and practicing home fire escape drills can reduce your risk of injury or death in a fire.
- Children practice fire drills in school at least four times per year. Do you practice how to react to fire in your home? You should!
- When fire strikes you may have less than one minute to safely get out of the building. Knowing what to do can mean the difference between life and death.
- **Fires are fast.** Fires double in size every minute.
- **Fires are dark.** Fires are not like what you see on television or in the movies. Fires create thick, black, choking smoke which makes it impossible to see and breathe.
- **Fires produce heat, smoke and toxic gases.** Smoke alarms warn residents in the event of a fire. Smoke alarms give you time to leave the building before your escape route is blocked by deadly smoke, heat and toxic gases.

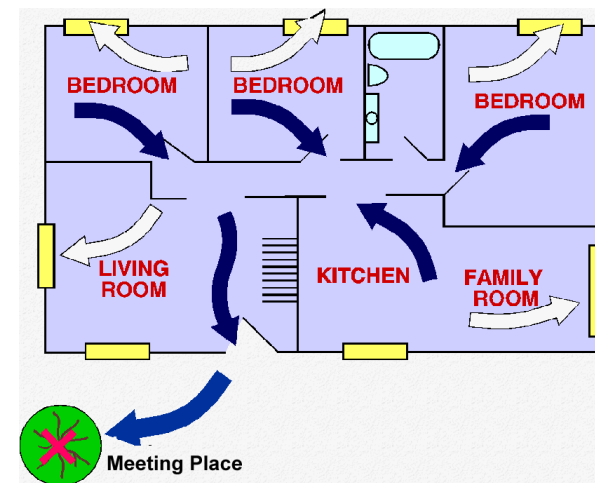
## Make an Escape Plan

Draw a floor plan of your home and plan a fire escape route. Locate all doors, windows, halls, stairs and fire escapes that can be used to get outside.



## Plan 2 Ways Out of Each Room

- Using arrows, show 2 ways out of every room, especially bedrooms.
- Choose a meeting place outdoors.
- Discuss and practice the plan with each member of the family so everyone understands what to do in an emergency.
- Make sure that each family member can open door locks and window latches.
- Check to see if all windows that are part of the escape plan open easily and have not been painted shut.
- If your home has security bars or child window guards, they should have a quick-release feature that can be operated from the inside.
- Keep pathways through the house clear of obstacles such as furniture, newspapers, toys, etc.
- Plan around your abilities. If you wear eyeglasses or hearing aids, keep them at your bedside along with a flashlight.
- Post your street number on your home in numbers clearly visible from the street. This helps emergency personnel locate your house quickly.



## When an Alarm Sounds

- Roll out of bed onto the floor and stay low beneath the smoke. Crawl to the door.
- Check the door for heat with the back of your hand.
- If the door feels cool, open it slowly. If the coast is clear of fire, crawl to escape. Signal others by calling or banging on walls.