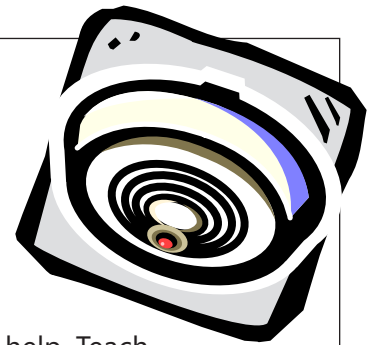


Home Fire Safety



In a typical home fire, smoke, heat and toxic gases build up rapidly. You could have less than three minutes to escape. This is why it's so important to have working smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan.

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level and outside each sleeping area.
- Test them monthly.
- Replace alkaline batteries when you change your clocks.
- Never disable alarms or take out the batteries while cooking.
- When replacing smoke alarms, choose new ones with sealed 10-year batteries.

Home Escape Planning

- Practice your home escape plan with the whole family twice a year.
- Plan two ways out of each room. The easy way out is probably the door and the second way out might be a window. Use the grid on the next page to draw your plan.
- If you plan for a child or a senior to exit a window, make sure they can open it easily.
- If you can't get out, close your door, go to the



window, and signal for help. Teach children never to hide under beds or in closets.

- If you must go through smoke, crawl low. The coolest, cleanest air will be about 18 inches off the ground.
- Set a meeting place out front a safe distance from the house. That way you can tell the fire department that everyone is out safely.
- Stay out; don't go back into a burning building for anything.
- Call the fire department from outside the house using a cellphone, a neighbor's phone or a fire alarm box.

Safe Smoking

- Try to quit again.
- Dispose of cigarettes and other smoking materials safely. Always use a sturdy ashtray with water or sand. Do not stub them out on porches, railings, or stairways. Don't discard them in the trash, on the ground, in mulch, or in flower pots.
- Use large ashtrays with center rests so cigarettes fall into the ashtray not on the floor. For health and fire safety reasons, permit smoking outside only.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep lighters on your person, not on a table or in a purse where children can find them.
- Never smoke in homes where oxygen is in use.

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FireFactors

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