

Fire Evacuation Planning Checklist

Home fires are the most common disaster in the U.S., and children and older adults are twice as likely as the rest of the population to die in a home fire. Does your family have a fire evacuation plan? If you're like most families in America, you don't have one, but putting one together is easy to do, and it may save the life of someone you love.

- Install smoke alarms** on each level of your home and outside sleeping areas. Check batteries monthly and replace them every year.
- Gather the family and go room-by-room through the house to find at least **two ways to escape from each room**.
- Designate a **meeting place outside and at a safe distance from your home** where all family members know to gather in case of a fire.
- With your family, **practice escaping** from your home and crawling low to the ground at different times of day.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to **call 9-1-1 in case of a fire**.
- If you have a multi-level home, **consider purchasing escape ladders** for upper-level sleeping areas. Store them near windows and make sure everyone knows how to use them properly.
- Teach everyone how to **“STOP, DROP, and ROLL”** if their clothes catch fire. Practice this with your children.
- In case of fire, **get out and stay out** until a fire official gives you permission to go back into your home.
- Before opening a door, check to see if it is warm to the touch. Be careful about grasping potentially hot doorknobs, and **never open a door that feels warm**.
- If you become trapped in a room by smoke, heat, or flames:
 - Stay in the room** with the door closed.
 - Place a towel or blanket under the door** to help keep smoke out.
 - Call 9-1-1 and tell them where you are** in the house.
 - Open the window—but do not try to break it—and **signal for help** by waving a brightly colored or white cloth or flashlight.

Source: “Fire Escape Planning,” American Red Cross, 2007, <<http://www.redcross.org/www-files/Documents/pdf/Preparedness/Fire/FireEscapePlanningFactSheet.pdf>>, accessed on August 9, 2012.



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