

Take Time For A Home Fire Escape Plan

If your family hasn't prepared and practiced a Home Fire Escape Plan recently, why not do it now?!

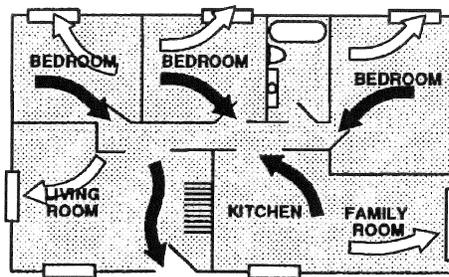
PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

Gather your family together to discuss fire escape.

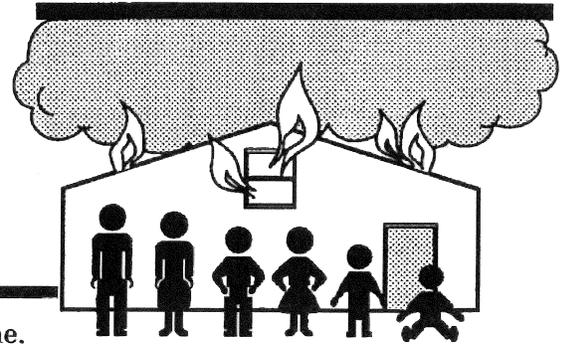
- Do you have a smoke detector on each floor of your home? Test it to see if it works.
- Decide on a way everyone can alert the family of a fire. Remember, fire can block hallways, preventing you from reaching other bedrooms. (Of course, the best method of fire detection is your smoke detector!)
- Test doors before opening. Smoke and intense heat may be on the other side and can strike you down in seconds.
- Don't waste time getting dressed or gathering valuables — Get away and stay away!
- Decide upon a meeting place outside (away from the house) to quickly check to see if everyone is safe.
- Decide who will notify the fire department as soon as everyone is out. Plan to use a neighbor's phone. Speak slowly, "My name is... I'm reporting a fire at (address)..." Then wait to answer questions. Let the dispatcher hang up first.

PREPARE YOUR ESCAPE

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Label all rooms and show all doors, windows, and stairways.
- If on the upper floor, shade in any rooftops that can be used as a fire escape.
- Go to each bedroom and select the best window to be used for an emergency escape. Test the window to be sure it will open.

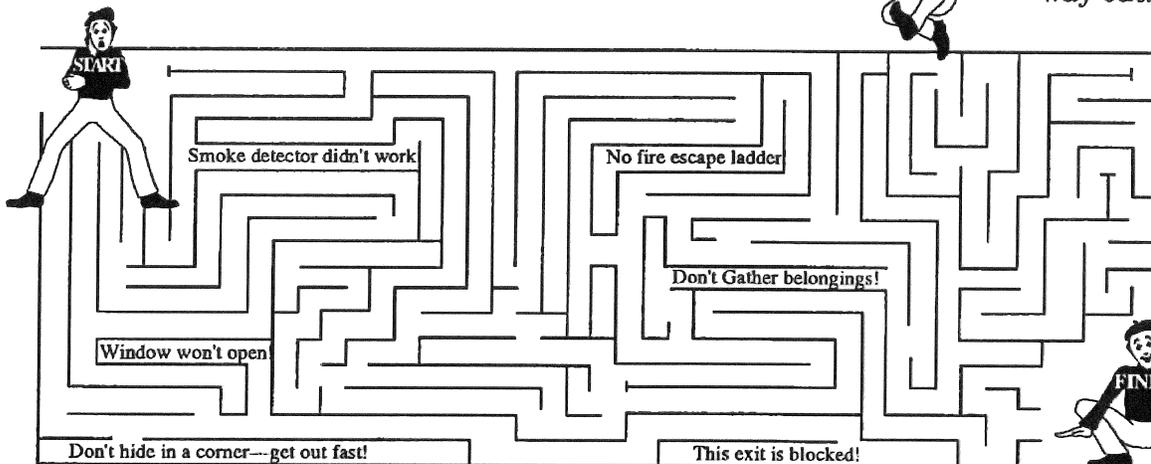


- On your floor plan, show all primary or normal exits with a solid black line.
- Show all secondary or emergency exits with an outlined arrow (the route you will take if your main exit is blocked by smoke or heat).



PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE

- Have everyone in their own bedroom, with doors closed if you have a smoke detector.
- Sound the alarm.
- Everyone out of bed and low crawl to the floor. (Stay Low and Go.)
- Feel the door with your hand. Is it hot? Is smoke leaking in around the edges? If so, take your second way out.
- If you think it's safe to open the door, brace your shoulder against the door. Open the door slightly, being ready to slam it shut if any smoke rushes in.
- Have two drills, practicing both primary and secondary escape routes.
- Be sure everyone can open windows and screens easily, position ladder quickly, etc.
- Be prepared to offer any special help to infants, elderly, etc. on the way out. Never return to a burning building.
- Once outside, have everyone go to your planned meeting place and make sure everyone is accounted for.



Make your escape from the maze. If you didn't plan, prepare, and practice your home escape plan, you'll run into trouble!