



When the smoke alarm sounds indicating a fire in your home, you may only have minutes to evacuate your family to safety. It is important that every family have a fire escape plan in place, so they are prepared in case disaster strikes.

Consider the following tips when building your family's fire escape plan:

- Make building your plan a family event. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear, and doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e., neighbor's house, a light post or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Make sure that everyone in your home, especially children, know to call 911 for emergencies, so that any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.
- If there are infants, older adults or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

Source: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>

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