

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

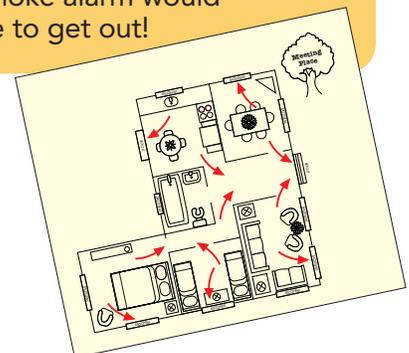
- »» MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- »» KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- »» HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- »» PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- »» PRACTICE using different ways out.
- »» TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- »» CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- »» If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- »» If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- »» CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **45%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information www.nfpa.org/education
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



Home Fire Escape Checklist

TO BEGIN DEVELOPING A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN with all members of your family, draw a map of your home. You can download *How to Make a Fire Escape Plan* at www.nfpa.org/homeescape to get started, or simply make a map on a piece of paper. Then, use this checklist to make sure your escape plan includes all the elements needed to ensure your household's safety from fire.

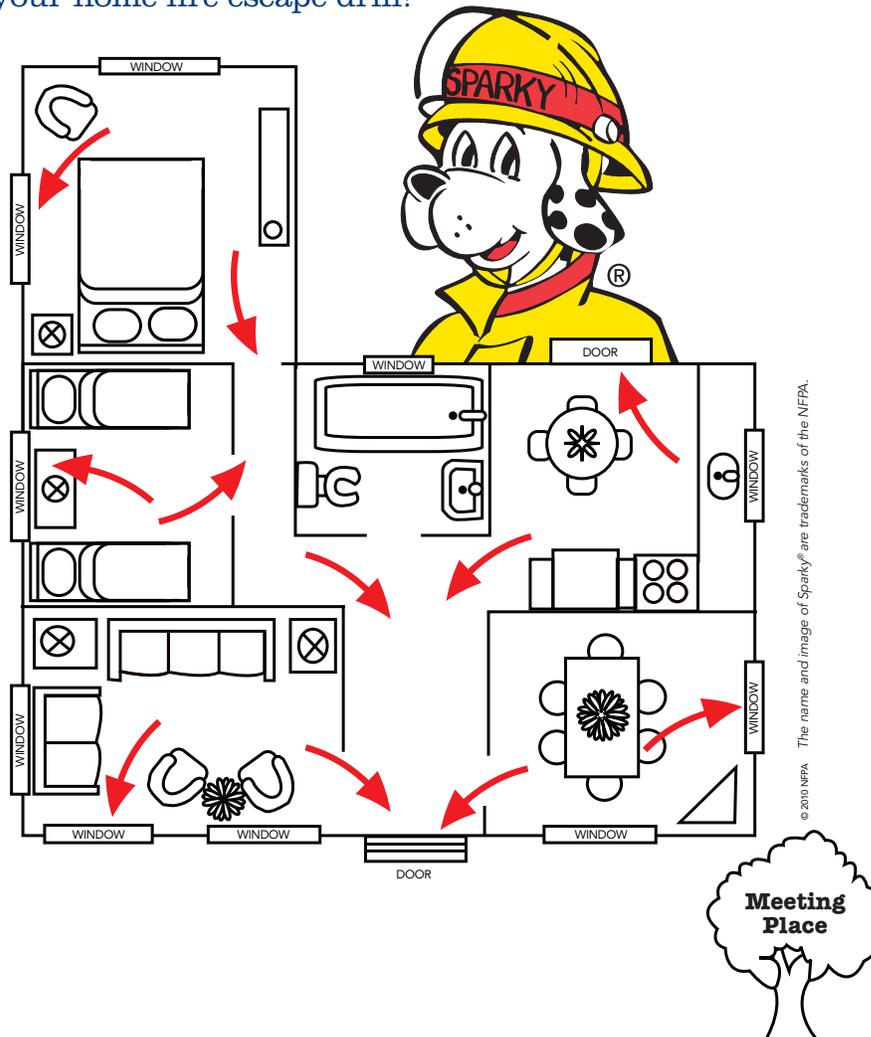
- I have made a map of our home indicating all windows and doors that can be used to get outside if the smoke alarm sounds.
- All members of my household have walked through the home with me to identify two ways out of each room.
- The home fire escape plan includes two ways out of every room in the home (usually a door and a window).
- All ways out of each room and the home are clear, free of clutter and can be opened easily.
- Security bars on doors and windows have a quick-release device so they can be used to get outside in case of a fire.
- There is a meeting place (a tree, neighbor's home, street light) outside in front of our home where everyone knows to meet upon exiting.
- Our house number can be clearly seen from the street.
- Our plan includes the local emergency telephone number (or 9-1-1) to be contacted immediately upon leaving the home.
- There are working smoke alarms in all required locations throughout our home; there's at least one on every level of the home (including the basement), inside all bedrooms and outside each sleeping area.
- We all know what the smoke alarm sounds like, and what to do when we hear it.
- We have practiced our home fire escape drill, and will continue to do so at least twice a year.
- Everyone in our home knows how to get low and go under smoke, in case we need to escape through smoke.
- We all know if the smoke alarm sounds, get outside of the home and stay outside, and understand that we should alert the fire department to any people or pets trapped inside.

— Keeping Your Community Safe with Home Fire Escape Drills —



How to Make a Home Fire Escape Plan

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire escape drill!



- Make your own home fire escape plan on the back of this paper.

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