

# Home Fire Escape Plan



In case of a fire, it is important to make and practice an escape plan for your family. Smoke can kill you, and you may have less than 3 minutes to escape.

## Escape Route Checklist:

- Draw and **practice** your escape plan as a family.
- Mark **two ways out of every room** if possible. Draw all windows and doors on your escape plan grid.
- Have a **designated person to help young children** and others who might have difficulty escaping.
- Make sure **all windows and screens can be opened** quickly.
  - Security bars should have a **quick release device** so you can open windows and doors in an emergency.
  - For upstairs windows, have an **escape ladder** that fits your windows. Make sure everyone knows where it is. However, do not practice using it because you or your children may fall. Make sure your children know that the escape ladder is for emergencies only and is not a toy.
- Practice feeling the door, doorknob, and cracks** around the door with the back of your hand to see if it is too hot. Help your children practice this step.
- Teach children to “**get low and go**” if there is smoke when they are leaving the home.
- Choose a **specific place to meet** in front of your home where you can be seen from the street. Once you're out, stay out.
- Don't call 911 until after you're out** of the home.

Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Also, practice it at night to see if your child awakes to the smoke alarm. Children sleep more deeply than adults. If your child does not wake up to the alarm, try an alarm where you can program your voice to alert the child.

## Apartment Buildings Require Extra Steps!

- **Know your building's fire escape plan.** If there is no smoke in the hallway or stairwells, follow that plan.
- **Find all the stairways and exits** in your building and mark them on your escape plan grid.
- **Always use the stairs** to get out. Never use the elevator.
- If you don't hear the building's fire alarm, **pull the nearest fire alarm “pull station”** while leaving the floor.
- If you encounter **heavy smoke or flames as you leave, find another exit** or return to your apartment.
- Do not assume anyone else has already called the fire department. **Call 911 after** you're out of the building.

## If you cannot escape the room (or apartment):

- **Stuff the cracks** around the door and air vents with duct tape, towels or clothing.
- If possible, **call 911** and tell them where you are located.
- **Open the window and signal for help** with a sheet or flashlight.

## Other Important Tips!

- Keep your **child's bedroom door closed**. If a fire occurs in the hallway, a closed door will help keep smoke out of the room.
- **Teach children not to hide from firefighters.** Their uniforms can look scary, but remind your children that firefighters are here to help.
- Make sure your **street number is clearly visible** from the road.

Proud Program Sponsor  
United States Fire Administration



**FEMA**

**USE THE GRID ON THE BACK SIDE OF THIS PAGE TO MAKE YOUR ESCAPE PLAN.**

