



# HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

## Develop a home fire escape plan today

If a fire occurs in your home tonight would your family get out safely? Everyone must know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds. Take a few minutes to make a home fire escape plan that you practice.

### How to Create Your Home Fire Escape Plan

There are 4 simple steps when make a home fire escape plan:

#### Step 1: Install working smoke alarms on each level of your home

- Photoelectric smoke alarms should be installed near kitchen areas, they are best at detecting slow smoldering fires and do not create as many nuisance alarms.
- Ionization alarms should be installed in bedrooms and hallways near sleeping areas as they detect fast flaming fires.

#### Step 2: Draw a floor plan of your home

- Using the grid, make an outline of each floor of your home and label each room.
- Draw in all windows, doors and stairways. This will show you and your family all possible escape routes. Include any features, such as the roof of a garage or porch that would help in your escape.
- Show two ways out of each room, if possible. The door will be the main exit from each room. Windows can serve as the second emergency exit. If a window is

considered an exit, make sure all family members can open the locks and windows easily for a quick escape. Security bars on windows and doors must have a quick release mechanism to make escape possible.

#### Step 3: Choose a family meeting place

- The meeting place should be a safe distance away from the house. All family members should be taught to report to the meeting place after escaping a fire. One person should go to a neighbour's house or the nearest phone in a safe location to contact 9-1-1.

#### Step 4: Schedule a home fire drill

- Review the plan with everyone in your household. Walk through the escape route of each room with the entire family. Use this walk through to check your escape routes making sure that all exits are practical and easy to use. Practice your escape plan by having a fire drill at least twice each year.



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## What should I do if there is a fire?

**Get out quickly and safely.** When the smoke alarm sounds, immediately start your escape. Do not stand up if the smoke alarm goes off at night while you are sleeping, *roll out of your bed and crawl to the door*. Do not try to gather possessions or pets.

**Check the door.** Stay low behind the door, reach up and feel the door and the door handle for heat.

**If the door feels cool,** brace yourself against the door and open it slowly. If it is safe, leave the building and go directly to your meeting place. If you encounter smoke, crawl low under the smoke. Cleaner air is down low, near the floor. Once you are out of the building, stay out! Go to the meeting place to make sure everyone is safe. Phone 9-1-1 from a neighbour's house.

**If the door feels warm,** or you see smoke or flames on the other side of the door, shut the door, and use your second escape route. If you must escape from an upper story window of a multi-level home, make sure you have a safe way to reach the ground, such as a fire escape ladder.

**If you are mobility challenged or trapped within your suite or room,** seal the openings around the door and vents with bedding or towels. Call 9-1-1 and notify the fire dept of your location. It is safe to open a window if there is no smoke, stay by the window to signal and yell for help.

