

Plan your escape

Be prepared. Once the smoke alarm sounds, you may only have a few minutes to get out safely. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there's a fire.

No matter how prepared you are, home fires can occur. While a fire can be a frightening experience, having an escape plan in place before something happens will help you and your family get out safely.

What should be in my home escape plan?

You should be able to identify two ways out of each room. You should have a map for every floor of your home with bedrooms that shows all doors and windows.

Identify and plan the route to an agreed-upon outside meeting place (mailbox, tree, light pole or something else easily identifiable to all household members both in daytime and at night). The meeting place should be a safe distance (at least 10 meters) away from your home.

Practise your plan

Having a plan is only the first step. Everyone in your home should practise the home escape plan at least twice a year. As you practise, close the doors behind you as you leave. In a real emergency, this may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.

- Know the two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows open easily. If a ladder is needed to evacuate through a window ensure it is near the window, unboxed and ready to use.
- Teach your children how to escape on their own. You may not be able to help them or you may have a temporary caregiver in the home. Teach your babysitter the plan.
- Don't just practise your evacuation in the daylight. Things look different in the dark, so practise your plan at night too.

Remember: If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.