



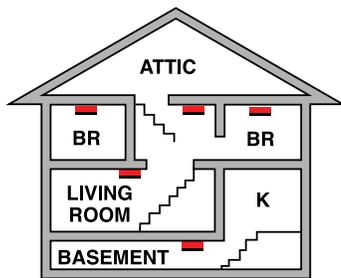
Have a Sound Fire Escape Plan

In the event of a fire, remember - time is the biggest enemy and every second counts!

Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly.

Sit down with family and/or caregivers and make a plan

Schedule a meeting of everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes and be sure that they are clear, no furniture or items blocking exit doors.



Identify two ways out of each room

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.

Install quick release for security bars

Install quick release devices on windows and doors so they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Make sure everyone in the household practices how to properly operate and open locked or barred doors and windows.



Designate a meeting place outside and take attendance

Designate a meeting location away from the home, but not necessarily across the street. Meet under a specific tree or at the end of the driveway or front sidewalk to make sure everyone has gotten out safely and no one will be hurt looking for someone who is already safe.

Seal yourself in for safety

In some cases, smoke or fire may prevent you from exiting your residence. To prepare for an emergency such as this, practice “sealing yourself in for safety” as part of your home fire escape plan.

For more information visit: www.mtstcil.org/eguide



Special needs - don't isolate yourself

Contact the local fire department for advice on creating an escape plan and request emergency responders keep your needs on file so that they will be prepared should you require their help.

Prepare for everyone's needs

Anticipate that children, older people and people with disabilities will need help escaping a fire. Plan for this. Know who needs help and pick someone in the household to help them.



Practice escaping from every room in the home

Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily. Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape.

Know When to Go

Immediately leave the home

When a fire occurs, do not waste any time saving property. Take the safest exit route, but if you must escape through smoke, remember to crawl low, under the smoke and keep your mouth covered.



Never open doors that are hot to the touch

When you come to a closed door, use the back of your hand to feel the top of the door, the doorknob, and the crack between the door and door frame to make sure that fire is not on the other side. If it feels hot, use your secondary escape route. Even if the door feels cool, open it carefully. Brace your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. If heat and smoke come in, slam the door and make sure it is securely closed, then use your alternate escape route.

Once out, stay out

Remember to escape first, then dial 911. Never go back into a burning building for any reason. Teach children not to hide from firefighters. If someone is missing, tell the firefighters. They are equipped to perform rescues safely.



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