



Are You Ready for a Fire?

Here's what you can do to prepare for such an emergency

■ Make your home fire safe

- ✓ Smoke detectors save lives. Install a battery-powered smoke detector on each level of your home, as well as in the garage.
- ✓ Use the test button to check each smoke detector at least twice a year. When necessary, replace batteries immediately.
- ✓ Have a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen.

■ Plan your escape routes

- ✓ Determine at least two ways to escape from every room in your home.
- ✓ Make or purchase rope or chain ladders to use to climb out of rooms above the first floor, and practice using it.
- ✓ Select a location where everyone would meet after escaping your home.
- ✓ Discuss what you would do about family pets if you need to escape from a fire.

■ Conduct periodic fire drills

- ✓ Remember: crawl low under the smoke to escape. Teach small children how to do this.
- ✓ Close the door as you leave a room and feel closed doors before you enter a room. A hot door probably means the room on the other side is in flames.
- ✓ Practice the stop-drop-and-roll way to put out flaming clothing.
- ✓ Get everyone out quickly. (In a real fire, escape and then call the fire department.)

Each year there are more than 2 million residential fires, resulting in more than 6,000 deaths. Fire is one of the most common disasters. But it doesn't have to be deadly if you have early warning from a smoke detector and everyone in your family knows how to escape calmly.

Please be serious about the responsibility of planning for and practicing what to do in case of a fire. Be prepared by having various household members do each of the items on the checklist below. Then get together to discuss and finalize your personalized Fire Plan.

_____ Buy and install smoke detectors on each level of your residence . . . as well as in the garage and workshop. Keep new batteries on hand.

New smoke detectors installed; batteries purchased: _____
(date)

_____ Test smoke detectors every six months. Start a chart and sign it after each round of tests.

_____ checks smoke detectors.
(family member name)

_____ Test the fire extinguisher you have or buy a new one to properly protect your home.

_____ tests extinguisher.
(family member name)

_____ Draw a floor plan of your home and mark two fire escape routes for each room.

Floor plan completed: _____
(date)

_____ Pick an outside place to meet following a fire.

Meeting place: _____

_____ Practice a low crawl escape from your bedroom. Try it with your eyes closed to see how well you could do in thick smoke. Also, practice the stop-drop-and-roll technique.

Smoke escape drill conducted: _____
(date)

_____ Conduct a home fire drill at least once a year.

Home fire drill conducted: _____
(date)

And remember . . . when an earthquake, flood, fire, hurricane, or other emergency happens in your community, you can count on your local American Red Cross chapter to be there to help you and your family. That's been our role for more than 100 years.