

Home Fire Safety Guide

Home Fire Escape Plan

1. **Develop a floor plan** of your home – identifying all exits (doors and windows) and two ways out of each room.
2. **Define an outside meeting place** (e.g., neighbors or tree) where everyone can safely meet.
3. Remember to **call 9-1-1 after you've left the house** in the event of an emergency.
4. **Practice your escape plan** so that everyone knows what to do in an emergency.
5. **Keep doors closed** to help contain the fire and minimize smoke from spreading throughout your home.

In the event of a Fire

1. **Crawl Low Under Smoke**
 - Remember that in a fire, heat and smoke rise.
 - If you have to escape through smoke, crawl low under the smoke keeping your head just off the floor area where the air is cleaner and cooler.
2. **Get out & Stay Out !**
3. **Call 9-1-1 from outside the house.**

If your clothes catch on fire:

Stop - Drop & Roll

1. **Stop**—don't run!
2. **Drop** to the ground & cover your face
3. **Roll** back and forth to smother the flames

Common Fire Causes

1. Unattended Cooking

Kitchen Fire Safety

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep cooking areas clean and free of clutter.
- Turn pot and pan handles in and keep out of reach from children and pets.
- Don't wear loose fitting clothes that can catch on fire.

2. Unattended Candles

Candle Fire Safety

- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.

- Use sturdy, non-combustible candle holders.
- Place on sturdy surface out of reach from children and pets.
- Keep candles away from other combustible materials like window curtains and decorative materials.

3. Discarded Smoking Materials

Smoking Fire Safety

- Never smoke in bed or when feeling drowsy.
- Smoking and alcohol don't mix...it's a dangerous combination!
- Discard ashes in a non-combustible ashtray.
- Use water to cool down ashes before discarding them in a wastebasket or discard the ashes in the toilet.
- Beware of hidden smoldering embers that may have fallen in between cushions of a chair or sofa.

4. Children Playing with Matches and Lighters

Matches & Lighter Safety

- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Store matches and lighters up high, out of reach from children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Teach children the hazards of lighters and matches and that these things are tools, not toys.
- Teach children that if they find matches or a lighter to tell an adult immediately.

5. Faulty Electrical Equipment

Electrical Safety

- Inspect electrical cords for damage and replace damaged equipment that smells, smokes, or overheats.
- Do not place electrical cords under rugs where damage can be hidden and make sure cords are not pinched between the wall and any furniture.
- Do not overload electrical outlets, and where necessary, use power strips with proper overload protection.
- Install GFCI outlets in home areas where water is used (i.e., bathrooms, kitchens, etc.).

6. Heating Equipment

Heating Equipment Safety

- When using space heaters, keep all combustible materials at least 3 feet away from the heater and always turn the heater off when leaving.
- Space heaters are for temporary use only, don't use them to supplement a regular heating system.
- Never use a stove, oven, or grill to heat your home.
- Have your home heating equipment (furnace, fireplace, etc.) inspected annually by a qualified technician.

7. Arson

Arson Awareness

- Keep leaves, firewood, overgrown brush and shrubbery and other combustibles away from buildings.
- Keep doors and windows locked when a building is unoccupied. Board up abandoned buildings.
- Store all flammable liquids such as; paints, gasoline, and mowers in an approved storage location: locked cabinets, locked storage units, and locked garages (prevent access to kids). Also, keep away from heat sources such as furnaces and any type of heaters.
- Report suspicious activity near houses or other buildings to the local police and support Neighborhood Watch programs.
- If you suspect a child is setting fires, notify the proper authorities. It may not be "just a phase" they are going through. Keep matches and lighters out of reach and out of sight of young children.
- If you know or suspect that an arson crime has been committed, contact your local fire or police department.

Most fires are caused by careless behavior. Stay sober, awake, and aware when smoking, cooking and using candles!