

A home fire escape plan details how your family will escape your home if there is a fire. Practicing this plan can help your family members escape quickly and safely.

Plan your escape

- ▶ Draw or map out the layout of each floor of your home, with all rooms, doors, windows and smoke alarms identified. Mark two ways out of each room – often via a door and a window – and identify the path from each of those exits to outside.
- ▶ If your plan has an escape through a second-floor window, consider purchasing fire escape ladders. Make sure you understand how to use these ladders before an emergency.
- ▶ Identify a meeting place in front of your home where everyone will meet upon exiting. Meeting places can be any landmark – such as a mailbox, tree or stop sign – that is easily identified during the day or night. This meeting place should be at least 10 metres (30 feet) from your home and on the same side of the street as your home.
- ▶ Make sure your home has working smoke alarms. There should be at least one smoke alarm on every level and near or in all sleeping areas. Test your smoke alarms every month, replace batteries each year and replace the alarms if they're more than 10 years old.
- ▶ Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- ▶ Teach your children not to hide from firefighters.
- ▶ Print copies of your home fire escape plan and keep them in easy-to-find locations.
- ▶ Creating a home fire escape plan is one piece of a home emergency plan. Create your home emergency plan online at getprepared.gc.ca in less than 20 minutes.

Practice your escape

- ▶ Practice your home fire escape plan twice each year in the daytime and at night. Practice escaping via different routes each time.
- ▶ Teach your children to escape on their own in case you aren't able to help them in an emergency. Escaping through a window should only be practiced with an adult from a first-storey window.
- ▶ Test all windows and doors to make sure they open easily. Make sure everyone knows how to remove window screens, if required.



FIRE PREVENTION TIP SHEET

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Escape safely

- ▶ When the smoke alarm sounds, immediately start your escape.
- ▶ Using the back of your hand, touch the door and feel for heat. If the door is hot or you see smoke coming in through the cracks around the door, use another escape route.
- ▶ If you open a door, open it slowly and be ready to close the door if heavy smoke or fire is present.
- ▶ Stay low to the ground and crawl to your exit.
- ▶ Close doors behind you as you leave each room; this may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- ▶ Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- ▶ Call 9-1-1 and notify the operator of any people or pets trapped inside. If possible, tell the operator and firefighters where the persons/pets are located.
- ▶ If you can't exit your home, close the door, cover vents and seal cracks around doors with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1 and tell the operator where you are located.

Information contained in this tip sheet has been modified from the Government of Canada, Government of Alberta and National Fire Protection Association

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