



## Home Fire Safety: Making basic decisions can give you control over the risk from residential fires.

Develop and practice an escape plan. Make sure all family members know two exits out of every room and a meeting place outside your home.

Double your chance of survival by installing and maintain smoke alarms on each level of your house. Know what your fire alarm sounds like and frequently check that it is working. Change batteries twice a year, or install a ten year nine-volt lithium battery.

If you or a household member can't hear smoke alarms, be sure to have flashing alarms and bed shakers.

Make sure you can get out quickly. Portable fire escape ladders can help create an exit from the second or third floor. Consider moving bedrooms to ground floors to make exiting easier.

Keep doors closed to slow down the pace of a fire, and check for heat before opening. Use the back of your hand to feel the door, starting near the middle and moving up and toward the edges to check for heat. If the door is not, go out a different way.

If you can't exit, stay behind a closed door away from the fire. Place a cloth along the base of the door to keep the smoke out and stay low to the ground away from smoke. Take actions that will let people know you are there; call 9-1-1 and explain exactly where you are. Stay on the line. Draw attention to your location by placing a sign in the window, dangling a sheet or a poster you ripped off the wall, or flashing a light. Use anything that can draw attention to your location and indicate that you need help.

Get out at the first sound of alarm. Never wait to see if is a false alarm; use that time to get outside. While you are pre-planning, if you feel exiting might be a challenge, talk with your local fire department to discuss the best way to ensure fast rescue.

Once out, stay out and work to get emergency assistance as fast as possible. The danger of fire and smoke means that without special equipment and training, anyone going in will add to the number of people needing rescue.

Call 9-1-1 as soon as you are outside; seconds matter. If you are more comfortable speaking a language other than English, state your language clearly and say the word "fire."

Make sure the property is clearly marked and easy for fire trucks to access. The time spent trying to reach your house is time spent not controlling the fire.

