

Home Fire Escape Plan Checklist



If a fire starts in your home it can spread fast, and you may only have a few minutes to get out safely after the smoke alarm sounds. Every second is precious, so to give your family the best chance of survival, make sure everyone knows what to do and where to go in an emergency. Here's a handy checklist to help you prepare.

1. Start by getting together and making a home escape plan. Draw up a map of your home, showing all windows, doors and smoke alarms.

2. For each room, identify two ways out. Walk through your home and physically check that all doors and windows are clear and can be easily opened.

3. Choose an outside meeting place that's a safe distance from the home and can be easily found in the dark. This could be a mailbox, neighbours house, street light or road sign outside your property.

4. Practise your home fire escape plan twice a year, at night and during the day. Do it when everyone is home, and don't always use the same exit - try different ways to get out.

5. Teach children how to escape their room independently when they hear the smoke alarm in case you are unable to help them in an emergency.

6. If there is anyone in your home who needs assistance to get out, include details of who will help them in your plan. This includes the young, elderly and anyone with limited mobility.

7. When escaping always close doors behind you as you and your family leave the area to slow the spread of the fire.

8. Make sure everyone in the house knows to get out and stay out when they hear the smoke alarm. Never go back inside for people and pets, wait for help from the fire brigade.

9. If you need to exit through a smoke-filled room, always crawl low under the smoke. Teach children to "get down low and go, go, go".

10. Once you are outside safely, call the emergency services for help. Ensure every member of the household can call 000 and knows the correct street address.

It doesn't take much time or effort to put together an escape plan and preparing your family for an emergency can be the critical difference between getting out safely and not. So, don't wait - follow the steps above and make your own home fire escape plan today.