

Talk. Practice. Become fire smart.

Plan your escape:

- **Draw a floor plan of your home**, making two ways out of every room. Don't forget to include windows in your escape plan.
- **In one color, draw a line that shows the fastest way out of each room.** Then, in another color, draw another line that shows the second fastest way out.
- If windows or doors have security bars, make sure they have quick-release mechanisms so they can be opened quickly.
- Walk through your home and **inspect all possible exits.** Find two ways out of every room, especially bedrooms.
- **Install smoke alarms** throughout your home. Place at least one on every floor and/or outside every sleeping area.
- Check to make sure smoke alarms work. Test them once a month and **replace the batteries** at least once a year.
- Assign a family member to help those with mobility issues.
- **Establish a safe meeting place** for your family outside the home.
- **Practice your escape plan** with your entire family at least twice a year.

Practice your escape:

- **Test all doors before you open them.** If a door is cool, open it slowly. Doors will feel warm around the cracks if a fire is present. Never open a warm door. Seal the cracks with a wet towel and either find another way out or wait for the fire department to arrive.
- **Don't waste time with unnecessary items** such as a wallet, keys or laptop computer. Get out as fast as possible.
- **Never try to fight a fire by yourself.** Leave the firefighting to the professionals.
- **Close all doors behind you** as you leave. This will help slow the spread of fire.
- If smoke is present during your escape, **crawl as low as possible below the smoke.** Stay low and go.
- If you live in a two-story home or apartment, escape ladders may be necessary.
- If you live in a high-rise building, only use the stairs for your escape. **Never use an elevator**, no matter how minor the fire might be. Know the location of all fire stairs out of your building.
- Get out first. Call the fire department from a neighbor's home or from your cell phone after you have gotten safely out of the home.
- Get out and stay out. **Never go back into a home where fire is present.**

Things to talk about with kids:

- **Make sure babysitters and other caregivers know escape plan** and where to meet.
- Can everyone in your home — including children — unlock and open all doors and windows?
- If your windows have security bars, equip them with quick-release devices, and teach everyone in your household how to use them.
- **Test your smoke alarms** once a month.
- **Replace alarm batteries** once a year.
 - Replace any alarm that is more than 10 years old.

Be FireSmart



Prepare your home - Fire Safety Checklist:

YEAR

11

Install smoke alarms. Change batteries once a year. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

Test smoke alarms once a month

Practice escape plan with family at least twice a year. Once during the day and once at night.

Draw your home fire escape plan.

Our Meeting Place Is: _____