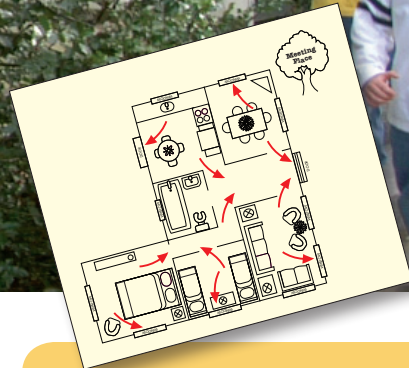


Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- » MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » PRACTICE using different ways out.
- » TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- » CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Plan and Practice a Home Fire Drill

1



Draw your escape plan.
Know where to meet outside.

2



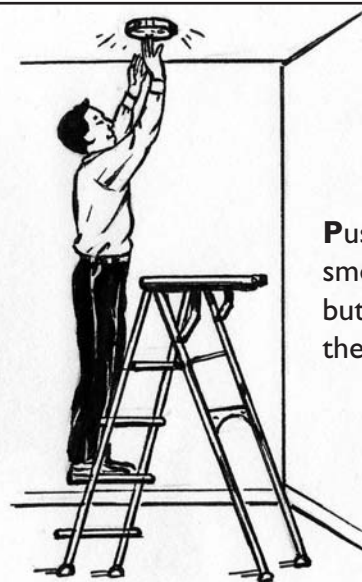
If possible, plan two
ways out of every
room.

3



Go over the plan with everyone in your home.
Identify people who need help.

4



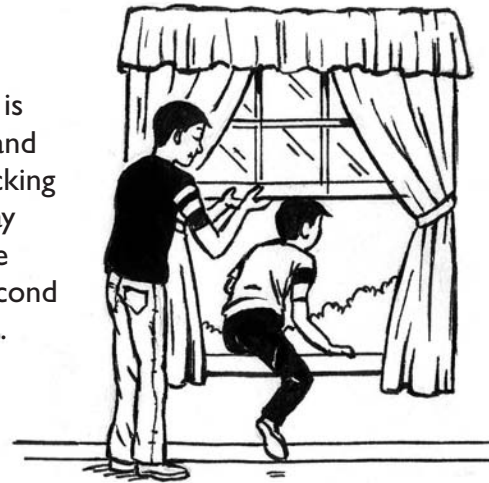
Push the
smoke alarm
button to start
the fire drill.

5



Get out fast and stay out.

6



If there is smoke and fire blocking your way out, take your second way out.

7



Close the doors behind you when you leave.

8



If all ways are blocked by smoke, get low and go below smoke.

9



Go to your meeting place. Call 9-1-1 or your fire emergency number from a neighbor's home or from your meeting place.



National Fire Protection Association

High-Risk Outreach Programs, Public Education Division

1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org

Illustrations by L.S. Pierce © 2008



Talking Points

USE THESE TALKING POINTS as a guide to help you stay on message when talking with local media outlets and making presentations to community groups.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING and drills are basic, but essential elements of fire safety.

It's too late to start developing a home fire escape plan when fire strikes. Everyone in the home needs to be prepared in advance, so that they can snap into action when the smoke alarm sounds.

Smoke alarms provide the minutes needed to escape a fire safely. Home fire escape planning and practice ensure that everyone knows how to use that time effectively.

A home escape plan includes:

- two exits from every room in the home (usually a door and a window);



- properly installed, working smoke alarms throughout the home;
- a meeting place outside in front of the home where everyone will meet immediately upon exiting; and
- the local emergency phone number, or 911.

All exits should be unblocked and open easily.

Security bars on windows should have quick release devices, which unlock the bars from inside the home, and allow access to the window.

Home fire escape plans should be practiced regularly, at least twice a year.

Get out and stay out! Never go back in a burning building to save someone or retrieve other items. If a person or pet is trapped inside, alert the fire department immediately.

Fire spreads rapidly. In some instances, you and your household may have as little as two minutes from the time the smoke alarm sounds to escape safely.

According to an NFPA survey:

- one of every three American households (32%) have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- one-third thought they would have at least six minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. In reality, the time available is often less.
- only 8% of U.S. households said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out.

— Keeping Your Community Safe with Home Fire Escape Drills —

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



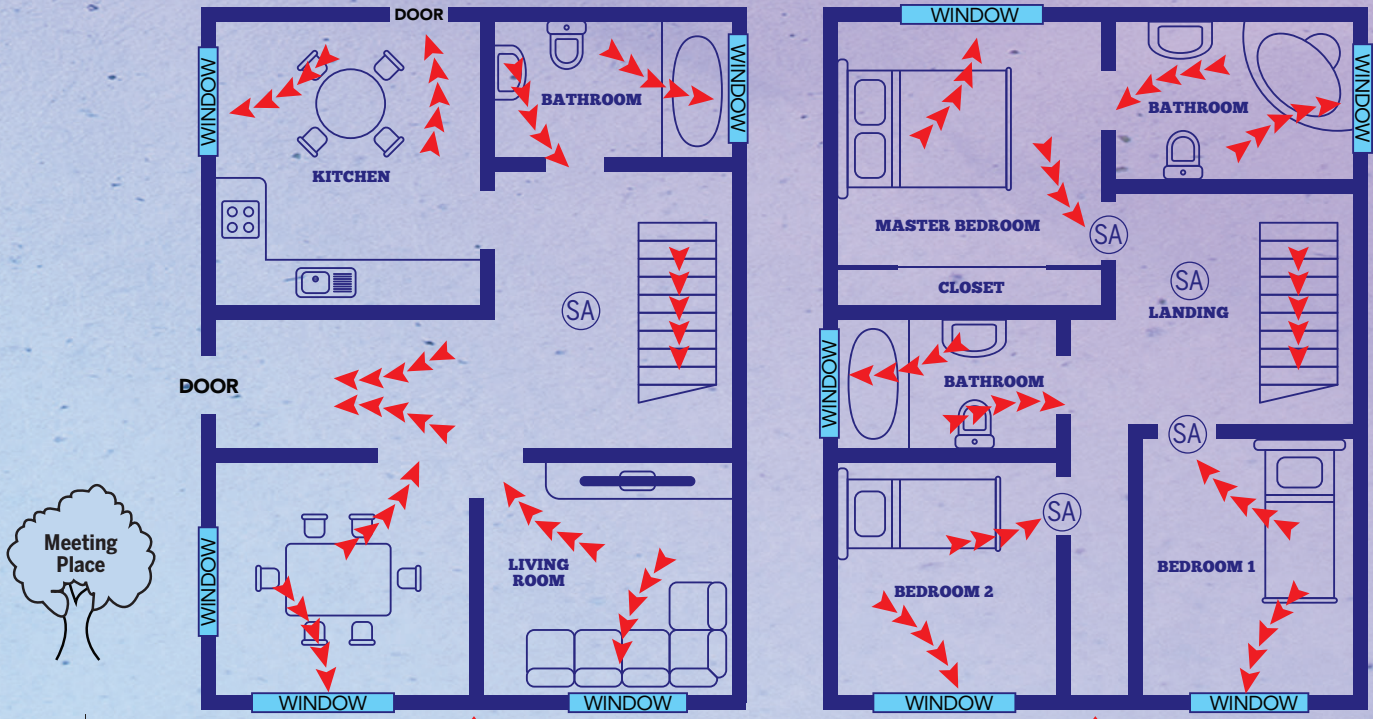
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

NFPA® — The Official Sponsor of Fire Prevention Week Since 1922

Visit Sparky.org for more activities!

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.

Sample Escape Plan



1st FLOOR

2nd FLOOR

