

Home Fires Emergency Response Plan

Before a Fire
● Create and practice a Fire Escape Plan.
● Find two ways to get out of each room.
● If the primary exit is blocked a secondary option may be a window or a ladder from upper windows.
● Make sure that windows are not stuck and the security bars can be properly opened.
● Practice making your way out in the dark or with your eyes closed.
● Windows and doors with security bars must have quick release for to allow them to open immediately in an emergency.
Smoke Alarms:
● Install smoke alarms equipped with ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.
● Test batteries regularly.
● Replace batteries in battery powered smoke alarms at least once a year.
● Install smoke alarms on every level of your home including the basement.
● Always follow the manufacturer's manual when installing.
● Replace the entire alarm unit every 8-10 years according to the manual.
● Never disable the smoke alarm while cooking. It could be fatal.
More Safety Tips:
● Sleep with your door closed.
● Use fire extinguisher only if you know EXACTLY what you are doing.
● Consider installing a fire sprinkler system in your home.
● Ask your local fire department to inspect your home for safety and prevention.

During a Fire
● Crawl low under any smoke - heavy smoke and poisonous gases gather along the ceiling.
● When the smoke alarm turns on get out fast. You may have only a few seconds to escape.
● If there is smoke or fire blocking your first exit route, use your secondary option to get out.
● Smoke is toxic. Make sure you get low under the smoke and head to your way out.
● Before opening a door check the temperature. If it is hot proceed to your secondary exit.
● If you open a door do it slowly and be ready to shut it quickly if heavy smoke or fire is present.
● If you can't get to someone in need for help evacuate and call 911.
● If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll - stop immediately, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hand and roll over back and forth until the fire is out. If you or someone else can't drop and roll, use a cloth to put out the fire and use cold water to treat the burn, cover with a clean, dry cloth and call 911.
Escaping the Fire
● Make sure windows are not nailed or sealed.
● Consider escape ladders.
● Teach family members your escape plans and the stop, drop and roll technique.
● Minimize any excess paper in your storage areas.