

# GET OUT AND STAY OUT!

More than 3,000 Americans die each year in fires, and thousands more are injured. Deaths resulting from failed emergency maps and plans are avoidable.

## HAVE A SOUND FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

In the event of a fire, remember-time is the biggest enemy and that every second counts! Escape planning involves everyone in the house. From knowing the way out, knowing the family meeting place, to calling for help everyone has to know what to do. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for the house to be filled with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames.

## KEYS TO SURVIVING A FIRE

1. Have a working smoke alarm. Having a smoke is simply not enough, it **MUST** work. Steps to insure that the smoke alarms is working are very simple:
  - A. Once a week test the alarm by pushing the test button on it.
  - B. Once a month clean the alarm using the vacuum or blow dryer to get the dust out of it.
  - C. Once a year, change the battery in the smoke alarm.
2. Have smoke alarms on every level of the house protecting the sleeping areas. Make sure everyone knows what the alarm sounds like.
3. Have and practice an emergency escape map. In the event of a fire you must know how far it is from the room you are in to fresh air. For your protection, it is best if you

sleep with the bedroom door shut; this keeps the heat, flames and smoke away from you longer. Before you open the door always touch test the door to see if it is hot or not, if it is hot you will need to use a second way out. **DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?** The second way out of your room can be a window. It is very important that everyone knows how to open and get out of the window. Practice is a the key to getting out alive in the event of a fire.

4. Once you are out, **STAY OUT!** Never go back inside a burning house, nothing is worth the risk to your life. Everyone stays out and the firefighters are the only ones to go inside a burning house. Stay together as a family at the family meeting place.
5. Notify the fire department from a neighbor's house, pay phone or cell phone. **DO NOT USE THE PHONE IN YOUR HOUSE.**

## MAKING AN ESCAPE MAP FOR YOUR HOME

Below is a grid that you can use to make a diagram of your house. The whole family needs to work on this together so that everyone knows how to get out in the event of a fire.

Show all the doors and windows and any other way that could be used as a possible escape route. Show the family meeting place which can be a tree, telephone pole

or mailbox. Then practice the escape map so that everyone knows the different ways to get out. Just like a road map shows you how to get to different places your escape map will show the different ways to escape in the event of a fire.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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