
Planning a Home Escape Route

When planning escape routes from your home—

- Determine at least two ways to escape from every room in your home.
- Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them, and store them near the window.
- In a high-rise building, remind everyone they must move carefully and quickly down the stairs because they cannot use the elevators.
- Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year, once you have established good practices and a safe escape time.
- With each family member, review how to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency services number and learn the exact location of your home. (Remember, call 9-1-1 or any other emergency number only in an actual emergency.)

Escape Safely—

- Once you are out, stay out!
- Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone, or outside on a cell phone or pay phone.
- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out.
- If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.
- If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door carefully before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out if possible.
- If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed.
- Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call 9-1-1 and tell the operator your situation and location.