

Home Fire Escape Plan

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Print, complete together, and post where everyone can see it.

GET OUT. STAY OUT. CALL 911 FROM OUTSIDE.

01 YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLAN

Home address + unit number

Outside meeting place (fixed landmark safely away from the home)

Household members / regular visitors

02 DRAW YOUR ESCAPE MAP

Draw each level, label rooms, doors and windows, and mark two safe ways out of every room. Add smoke alarms and your outside meeting place. Use another sheet for extra floors.

MAP KEY: A = alarm M = meeting place Solid arrow = main exit Dashed arrow = backup

03 ASSIGN HELP BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

Person needing help / assigned adult

Backup helper / mobility or hearing needs

Plan support for children and anyone who needs help. Ask your local fire department about routes or assistance needs you cannot safely resolve.

Practice & Safety Checklist

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Check your routes, test your alarms, and rehearse with everyone.

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04 PREPARE & PRACTICE

- ☐ **Keep both routes usable**
Clear doors and windows; make sure everyone can open them.
- ☐ **Check smoke alarms**
Install on every level, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test monthly.
- ☐ **Review alarm age and alerts**
Replace at 10 years, or sooner as directed. Use suitable alerts for hearing loss.
- ☐ **Practice twice a year**
Try daytime and nighttime drills. Rehearse a blocked main exit; time your escape.
- ☐ **Plan for your building**
Know exit stairs and the building fire plan. Use stairs, not elevators.

05 IF THE ALARM SOUNDS

- ☐ **Leave immediately**
Do not stop for bags, valuables or pets. Close doors behind you as you leave.
- ☐ **Avoid smoke and hot doors**
Stay low under smoke. If a door or handle is hot, use your other route.
- ☐ **Meet outside and stay there**
Call 911 from safety. Tell firefighters if anyone or any pet is missing; never re-enter.
- ☐ **If you cannot escape**
Close the door; cover vents and cracks. Call 911, give your exact location, and signal at a window.

Act fast: You may have less than 2 minutes to escape after an alarm sounds. Practice prompt evacuation; do not treat two minutes as guaranteed safe time.

Last drill date / escape time

Next drill date / next monthly alarm test

06 USEFUL SAFETY GEAR

Amazon links below are affiliate links. As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases.

[Interconnected smoke alarms - Amazon](#)

Check compatibility, certification and local requirements.

[Window escape ladder - Amazon](#)

Only for a suitable upper-floor window; confirm height, fit and weight limits.

[Plug-in emergency light - Amazon](#)

Keep routes visible during outages. Never delay escape to collect equipment.

Ladders: review the instructions ahead of time; practice only as the manufacturer permits. Ask the fire department if the route is suitable for your household.

[USFA: escape plans](#)

[USFA: smoke alarms](#)

[Red Cross: fire safety](#)

[Ready.gov: home fires](#)

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[View the online guide](#)

Emergency preparedness guides & checklists