

A fire is a terrifying experience. Without planning, a person could panic, which might spell family disaster.

Gather your family together for a short drill from time to time. This prevents panic in the few key minutes available to escape. Cover the following points:

- Always sleep with bedroom or hall doors closed. These can keep out fire long enough to allow escape through your emergency route.
- Keep smoke detectors working. Test them monthly by holding a candle close to them.
- Don't waste time getting dressed or gathering valuables. You only have one or two minutes before succumbing to smoke inhalation.
- Test doors before opening. Put the back of your hand against the door. If it is hot, or if smoke is coming through the cracks, don't open it. If the door is cool and seems safe, open it cautiously by bracing your shoulder against it and keeping your head to one side to avoid breathing any sudden smoke. Be ready to slam the door shut if you see smoke or heat rushes in.
- Arrange a meeting place outside. This way missing persons can be determined immediately. Never reenter a burning building. A few breaths of smoke can kill you.
- Never stand up when a fire alarm sounds. Drop to the floor and crawl to your emergency exit. Temperatures above the two-foot level could instantly burn you.

- When everyone is out, notify the fire department from a neighbor's house. Do not call from inside a building that is on fire.

Sources

Frank Field, "Could Your Family Survive a Fire?" *Reader's Digest*, V 135 (October 1989), 137-140.

Statistics from Ohio Department of Commerce, State Fire Marshal Division.

<p style="text-align: center;">FIRE ESCAPE INFORMATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Post on refrigerator)</p> <p>Our outside meeting place:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____ notifies Fire Department</p> <p>by phone from _____'s house.</p> <p>Fire Department phone number:</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fire drill schedule (every six months)</p> <p>Date 1 _____</p> <p>Date 2 _____</p> <p>Date 3 _____</p> <p>Date 4 _____</p>
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