



# Family Fire Escape Plan

Even with early warning, the smoke and confusion in a burning house may make escape impossible, unless you have a pre-planned exit. Family escape planning can be easy and will save lives.

**First, you must have a smoke detector for early warning.** The average sized house or apartment needs more than one smoke detector. The exact number depends on how many levels there are in the home and how many bedrooms. National Fire Safety standards recommend a minimum of one detector on each level of the home, one detector outside the bedroom area and one inside each bedroom. Make sure each family member is familiar with the detector's warning signal.

**Second, you should have escape routes marked out on a floor plan.** These should include two ways out, a regular way and then an escape route as well. Each member of the family should practice his or her escape route. Repetition makes it easier to remember which is crucial in an emergency situation. Make special plans for any children, invalids, or elderly that live in you home. If they need assistance, assign a family member to help them.

**Third, have a designated family meeting place.** By having one spot that everyone knows to go to, you can keep track of who is out of the house easier. This will help the fire fighters as well.

**Last, make sure your escape routes are clear.** Move any clutter or furniture from the escape path. Check all windows and doors for working order. If your house is more than one level, you may need a special fire escape such as a rope or chain ladder that fits over the window sill.

Follow these suggestions and practice with your family.  
You can never be too prepared for an emergency.