

Fire Safety

Young children are frightened by fire. They may hide in closets or under beds. They may refuse to leave the home. Teach children not to hide from fire fighters and familiarize them with the sound of your smoke alarm. There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire. It's a matter of planning.

Buy and install smoke detectors.

- Smoke detectors are inexpensive protection for you and your family. Check with your fire department; some have free smoke alarm programs.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home – including the basement. In addition, install them in each sleeping area.

Test and maintain smoke detectors regularly.

- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Replace the batteries at least once a year – perhaps at daylight savings time.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced after ten years or consider a smoke alarm with a ten year battery.

Develop a home fire escape plan.

- Know two ways out of the home in case of fire. Practice them with your children during home fire drills.
- When exiting the home, crawl or stay low to the ground, beneath the smoke, and keep your mouth covered.
- Test doors before opening them. If it's hot or there is smoke, use another way out.
- Never stop to call the fire department before leaving your home, call once you reach safety. Never go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, tell a firefighter.
- Designate an outside meeting place.
- Teach your child how to Stop, Drop, & Roll.

Use caution with decorative lighting.

- Turn off decorative lighting off when sleeping or leaving the house.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires or other damage.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.

Practice fire safety in your home.

- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Check under beds and in closets for used matches – evidence your child may be playing with matches.

Your two escape plans and the warning from your smoke detectors could mean the difference between life and death.



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