



FIRE ESCAPE

During a fire, the situation can become life-threatening in less than six minutes, making every second valuable. Escaping a fire quickly and safely should be everyone's main priority. Creating an escape plan is simple and practicing it regularly can mean the difference between life and death.

PLANNING: BEFORE A FIRE

Fires are similar to other disasters as there is a planning, response and recovery stage.

- Regularly practice escaping from every room of the property during both the day and night.
- Identify two ways out of every room. If one passageway is blocked having an established second option will help save valuable time.
- Every household member should learn how to quickly remove security bars from windows and doors.
- Designate a meeting place away from the home such as a front-yard tree or a sidewalk.
- Review and practice fire evacuation plans created by employers.
- If applicable, understand the fire evacuation plans of local schools.
- Make sure everyone knows when and how to call emergency telephone numbers.
- Inform house guests about escape plans.

RESPONSE: DURING A FIRE

If a fire occurs, keep the following safety tips in mind when evacuating.

- If needed and is possible, help individuals with limited mobility evacuate the property.
- Close doors to keep the fire from spreading.
- If smoke, heat or flames block both established escape routes, stay in the room and call the fire department.
- If all escape routes are blocked, open the room's window and use a bright colored object or flashlight to signal the location.
- Do not spend time to try saving personal property – home fires progress quickly.
- Never go back into a fire to save people or pets, instead, prepare to alert the fire department about individuals still inside.



RECOVERY: AFTER A FIRE

- At the designated meeting point, take attendance and designate one person to call the fire department by cell phone or using a neighbor's phone.
- Call the fire department only after escaping the burning property, unless escape routes are blocked by smoke, heat or flames.
- After the fire is out, assess fire damage and call the appropriate insurance company.

