

# Home Fire Escape Planning

The playbook describes the process of creating a fire escape plan for a home. It encompasses mapping safe escape routes from all rooms, accounting for the needs of children and the elderly, and designating an external meeting place for all occupants.

## Step 1: **Preparation**

Gather all household members to participate in the planning session. Ensure you have access to a floor plan of your home, writing materials, and information on the special needs of children, the elderly, or anyone with mobility limitations.

## Step 2: **Map Routes**

Using the floor plan, identify two escape routes from each room—typically a door and a window. Make sure these routes are clear of obstructions and that all windows and doors function properly. Mark these escape paths clearly on the map.

## Step 3: **Special Needs**

For each person with special needs, create a specific plan that includes who will assist them and alternate methods of escape if necessary. This can include procuring any equipment needed to assist in their evacuation.

## Step 4: **Meeting Place**

Determine a safe meeting place outside your home, such as a neighbor's house, a street lamp, or a mailbox, which is far enough away to be clear of any fire hazard but close enough to reach quickly. Mark this spot on your map and ensure all occupants know its location.

## Step 5: **Practice Drills**

Conduct regular fire drills to practice the escape plan. Try different scenarios, and practice using the secondary escape routes. Make sure everyone understands the importance of evacuating immediately and not returning inside.

## Step 6: **Review and Update**

Review and update your escape plan periodically, especially if you make changes to your home's layout or if the occupants' needs change. Keep the communication open to everyone in the household and encourage questions and suggestions.

# **General Notes**

## **Smoke Alarms**

Ensure that smoke alarms are installed throughout the home, particularly in sleeping areas, and that they are tested regularly. Smoke alarms are critical in alerting occupants to a fire in time to escape safely.

## **Emergency Numbers**

Have local emergency numbers, as well as a list of all household members and their medical conditions and medications, readily

accessible. Consider keeping a copy in your emergency meeting place and with a trusted neighbor.

## **Escape Ladders**

If living in a multi-story home, consider investing in escape ladders for rooms on higher floors. Teach household members how to use them safely during drills.

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