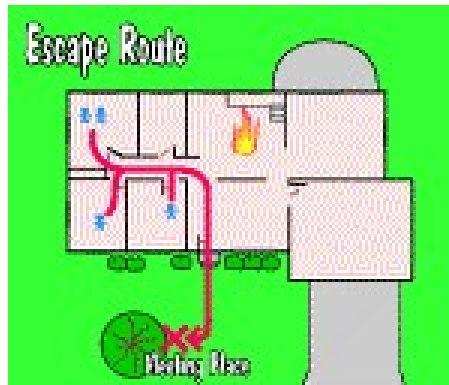




E.D.I.T.H. Drills

Exit Drills In The Home



Do you know what to do if there's a fire in your home?

You can survive a fire in your home if you plan and practice your escape.

Plan your escape...

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Show two (2) ways out of each room. Discuss escape routes with everyone in your home.
- Agree on an outside meeting place in front of your home where everyone will gather once you've escaped.

Be prepared...

- Teach every member of your household the sound of your smoke alarms.
- Have everyone in your home memorize the fire department emergency number. You should call from a neighbor's phone or portable phone once you've escaped.
- Teach everyone in your household how to unlock and open all windows and doors.
- If your windows have security bars, equip them with quick-release devices.
- Keep stairways and exits clear and free from clutter.

Install and maintain your smoke alarms...

- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home - and near or inside all bedrooms. In new construction, NFPA's code requires a smoke alarm in each bedroom and that each alarm is wired together so that if one sounds, they all sound.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month.
- Replace alarm batteries twice a year.
- Replace any alarm that's more than ten (10) years old.

Practice...

- Practice! Hold home fire drills at least twice a year.
- Ensure that smoke alarms alert everyone sleeping in your home.
- Make drills realistic by pretending some escape paths are blocked by smoke or fire.

If you live in an apartment building...

- Learn and practice your building's evacuation plan.
- Leave immediately if you hear a smoke alarm.
- Know the location of all building exits and fire alarms.
- Do not go back inside once you've escaped a fire.
- Use the stairs - never use elevators during a fire.
- Report any locked or blocked exits to your building's management.

If you live in a high-rise building...

- Your building's management should post an emergency evacuation plan on every floor.
- Your plan may instruct you to:
 - leave immediately;
 - stay where you are and wait to be rescued; or
 - move to an area away from the fire and wait to be rescued.
- Follow instructions given over your building's public address system, if you have one.
- Keep a portable phone with you during a fire emergency.
- React immediately if you are trapped. Seal vents and cracks around doors with a wet cloth. Call the fire department, tell them where you are and signal from a window with a flashlight or light-colored cloth.
- Be patient; evacuating large buildings can take hours.
- Do not assume that you can, or will, be rescued from the roof.

Escape tips...

- Test the doorknob and spaces around the door with the back of your hand. If the door is warm, try another escape route. If it's cool, open it slowly. Close it quickly if smoke pours through.
- If you have to escape through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees, keeping your head one (1) to two (2) feet above the floor, where the air will be cleanest.
- Close doors behind you as you escape to slow the spread of fire and smoke.

Sprinklers control fires...

- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home. Sprinklers can control or extinguish small fires faster than it takes the fire department to arrive.

Information provided courtesy of *Exit Drills in the Home*, National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.