

Fire moves fast. Plan ahead to save lives.

You may only have three minutes or less to escape once a fire starts in your home. Take these steps to increase your chances of survival.



Install Working Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms give you and your loved ones the earliest warning possible that there is a fire, so you can get out of your home quickly and safely. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Check your smoke alarms twice a year and replace them once they stop working according to the manufacturer's recommendations. When replacing or buying new smoke alarms, look for products that are third-party listed or certified.



Close Before You Doze[®]

A closed door can be an effective barrier against deadly levels of carbon monoxide, smoke, and flames, and may give you more time to respond to the smoke alarm. In fact, there can be a 900-degree temperature difference between a room with an open door and one with a closed door. While a room with an open door may reach 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit a room with a closed door may only reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Make closing doors at night part of your bedtime routine.



Create and Practice a Fire Escape Plan

If there is a fire in your home, there won't be time to plan a way out in the moment. Create an escape plan for your home and practice it with your family so you're ready for a fire emergency. Don't wait, plan ahead. Make sure your Fire Escape Plan includes a Plan **A**, **B** and **C**!

Know at least two ways out.

Plan A

Exit your home through the closest door, close the door behind you and go to your meeting place. Call 9-1-1. Make sure the fire department knows when everyone is out.

Plan B

When you can't safely escape through the closest door, you may need to use a back exit or a window. If you can, close the window/door behind you as you leave. Then go to your meeting place and call 9-1-1. Make sure the fire department knows when everyone is out.

Plan C

If you can't get out, get behind a closed door and call 9-1-1, telling the dispatcher where you are inside the home.

If you can't get out, use **PLAN C**.

- Get into a room as far away from the fire as possible and close the door.
- Once inside, call 9-1-1, telling the dispatcher where you are and that you cannot get out.
- Stay low to the floor.
- Turn on the light in the room if you can.
- Cover the cracks in the doors with clothes, towels, drapes, or anything else available.
- Cover the air vents if needed.
- If smoke is entering the room and air is needed, open the window to keep the smoke above your head. Start by opening the lower pane and remove both if it becomes necessary.
- Remain near the window for fresh air.
- Make yourself known to the firefighters when they arrive — wave, signal with a flashlight, call out for help.



Learn more at closeyourdoor.org.

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START PLANNING NOW!



Make Your Escape Plan

1. Talk it through.

Meet with everyone who lives in your home to discuss what to do in case of a fire emergency. Write down your escape plan.

2. Draw a map of your home.

Include each level of your home, every room, window, door and all other exit points.

3. Determine two ways out of every room and what to do if you can't get out.

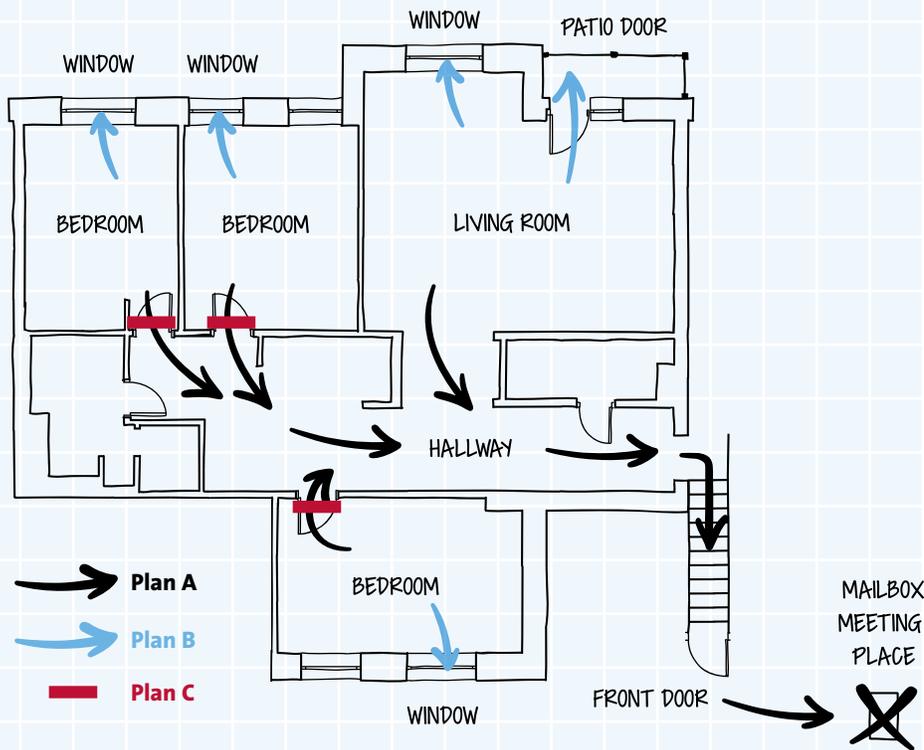
If one way is blocked or already filled with smoke and fire, having an alternate route will save time. If you can't exit safely, get behind a closed door and call 9-1-1.

4. Designate an outside meeting place.

It is important for everyone to have an agreed upon meeting place outside so that the fire department can confirm whether everyone is out or if someone may be inside.

5. Review and practice your escape plan.

Discuss and practice this plan with everyone living in the home including any overnight guests. Make sure everyone understands Plan **A**, **B**, and **C**.



A **B**

If you can get out,

STAY OUT!

Call 9-1-1 and tell the fire department when everyone is out of the house.

C

CAN'T GET OUT?

Follow your Plan C!

Get behind a closed door and call 9-1-1. Tell the dispatcher exactly where you are and that you cannot get out.

Talk it through. Map it out. Practice your plan.

Use the graph paper provided on the next page or any blank sheet of paper to draw out your plan. The most important step is to make sure everyone in your home understands and is capable of following the plan.



Learn more at closeyourdoor.org.

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