

# DEVELOP A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

~ IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE! ~

If a fire occurred in your home, would your family get out safely? Take time this year to **DEVELOP and PRACTICE** a home fire escape plan. Remind everyone in your household that they must know exactly what to do if a fire occurs, as you may have seconds to follow your plan.

## Simple steps for home fire escape planning include:

- **Draw a floor plan of your home**
  - You should draw a plan for each level of your home
- **Include all possible emergency exits**
  - Draw in all doors, windows and stairways to show all possible escape routes at a glance. Include features such as the roof or a garage or porch, that would help in your escape
- **Show two ways out of every room, if possible**
  - The door will be the main exit from each room. However if the door is blocked by smoke or fire, identify an alternate escape route, such as a window. Ensure all windows can open easily and that everyone knows how to escape through them to safety
- **Does anyone need help to escape**
  - Decide in advance who will assist the very young, older adults or people with disabilities
- **Choose a meeting place outside**
  - Choose a meeting place that is a safe distance from your home and that everyone will remember. In case of fire, everyone should go directly to this meeting place to be accounted for
- **Call the fire department from outside your home**
  - Don't waste valuable time calling the fire department from inside your home. Once you have safely escaped, call the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbour's phone. Once Outside - Stay Out.
- **Practice your escape**
  - Review the plan with everyone in your household. Walk through the escape routes for each room with the entire family, making sure all exits are practical and easy to use. Hold a fire drill twice a year and time how long it takes to escape safely.

**Develop a 'FIRE ESCAPE PLAN' and hold your first fire drill**

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**Working smoke & CO detectors are required by law in every home!**

The Ontario Fire Marshall, John Pegg, has reported, **"That is the highest total of fires related deaths in more than 20 years in Ontario"**. Many of the deaths could have been prevented by working Smoke and CO Alarms. **It is the law** to have working smoke alarms on every floor, and in the bedroom areas (and in each bedroom if the residence was built after 2014). These alarms must be replaced every 10 years. When we change our clocks, this is a good time to change the batteries in all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms (if required). It is also the law for Carbon monoxide alarms to be installed outside all sleeping areas, if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage. A good practice to clean your alarms regularly.