



Home Fire Evacuation

Fire is fast, hot, dark and deadly. In less than 3 minutes a small flame can get completely out of control filling your home with thick black smoke. It's imperative you and your family know what to do before fire strikes.



Create and practice a plan

- Have two ways out from every room—a secondary route may be a window onto a neighboring roof or an escape ladder.
- Make sure everyone can open the windows, including screens and security bars.
- Keep exits clear.
- Practice feeling your way out of the house and to your meeting spot in the dark or with your eyes closed.

During a fire

- If smoke is blocking your first way out, try your second. If you must go through smoke, crawl low where the air is cleaner and get out quickly.
- Go to your outside meeting place and then call 911.
- If a family member or pet is still inside, tell the 911 operator and alert firefighters immediately upon their arrival.
- Never go back into the home.



Have and practice a plan.

Two ways out of every room, crawl low under smoke.

Get out and stay out.

Never go back inside.

Apartments, condos and high rise buildings present unique challenges for evacuation. If the fire is not in your unit, it may be part of your emergency plan to shelter in place.

Area of refuge

- If you are unable to use exit stairs, find a safe location to wait for assistance from firefighters.
- An ideal area of refuge would be an enclosed room—near an exit stairwell—that has a door, a window and a telephone.
- The landing of an exit stairwell may also be used for refuge and may have two-way communication available. Fully sprinklered buildings will have two-way communication systems at elevator landings.

Sheltering in place

- Keep the door to the room or stairwell closed.
- Use towels or clothing to block openings around doors or vents.
- If smoke enters the space, stay low to the floor to breathe the best air.
- Put a wet cloth over your mouth or nose.
- Alert 911 to your location.



Fire Prevention Division

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