

# Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

## SAFETY TIPS

- »» MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- »» KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- »» HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- »» PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- »» PRACTICE using different ways out.
- »» TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- »» CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

## IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- »» If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- »» If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- »» CALL the fire department from outside your home.



Your Source for SAFETY Information [www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

## FACTS

- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **45%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

