



# Planning Your Home Fire Escape Plan



In a fire, you will probably only have 1-2 minutes from your smoke alarm sounding to when your life is seriously threatened by fire and smoke. If you've been woken from sleep, your senses may be affected by smoke and your reaction times will be slower.

Remember, smoke is thick and black; it may be difficult to see. So it is absolutely essential that your family prepares and rehearses an effective escape plan.

It is important that deadlocks on doors can be opened from the inside without keys. If this is not possible, keys should be left in the locks. Security grilles and screens that are permanently fixed to windows should be able to be opened from the inside and should open out.

## When organising your family's plan, you should:

1. Draw a floor plan of your house (use the chart you have been given)
2. Plan at least two escape routes from each room. (Windows as well as doors can be used as a means of escape). If one route is blocked, another may be able to be used. Primary escape routes (usually doors), will be the first exit used. The secondary escape route will be the alternative way out.
3. Choose an assembly point outside the front of the house, eg by the letter box.

## When rehearsing your home fire escape plan, remember these rules:

- ✱ Feel doors and door handles (with the back of your hand) before opening. If hot, don't open; find another way out.
- ✱ Crawl low in smoke. The floor will be the coolest place with the freshest air.
- ✱ Keep calm. Stay low. Don't panic.
- ✱ Close doors behind you as you evacuate. This will slow the fire's spread.
- ✱ If trapped, go to a window and signal for help.
- ✱ Never hide from a firefighter.
- ✱ If your clothes catch fire; Stop, Drop, Cover and Roll.
- ✱ When you get out, stay out. NEVER go back into a burning building.
- ✱ Meet outside at the safe meeting place.

