

**Take the following steps to stay safe in a fire:**

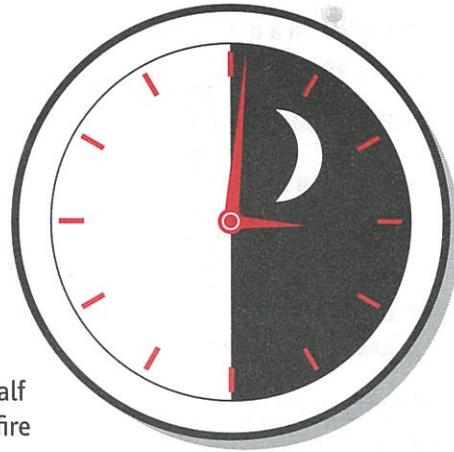
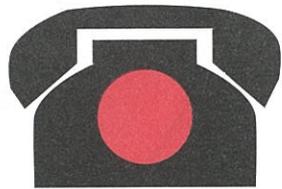
Roll out of bed and crawl low under the smoke. Remember, just one breath of smoke or poisonous fumes can kill you.



Feel the door. If the door is hot, do not open it! Use your second way out.

Once outside, go to the emergency meeting place. Don't go back in the house.

Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.



One half of all fire deaths occur between midnight and 6:00 am when most people are sleeping. Fire produces poisonous gases, heat over 1,000 degrees, and deadly smoke that rises and moves ahead of the flames. You cannot smell smoke while you are asleep. You need a smoke alarm to wake you and warn you of danger. When your smoke alarm sounds you have fewer than two and one half minutes to get out.

**Have You Planned Your Great Escape?**

Would your family know what to do if your home caught on fire?

**You need an escape plan!**



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State of New York  
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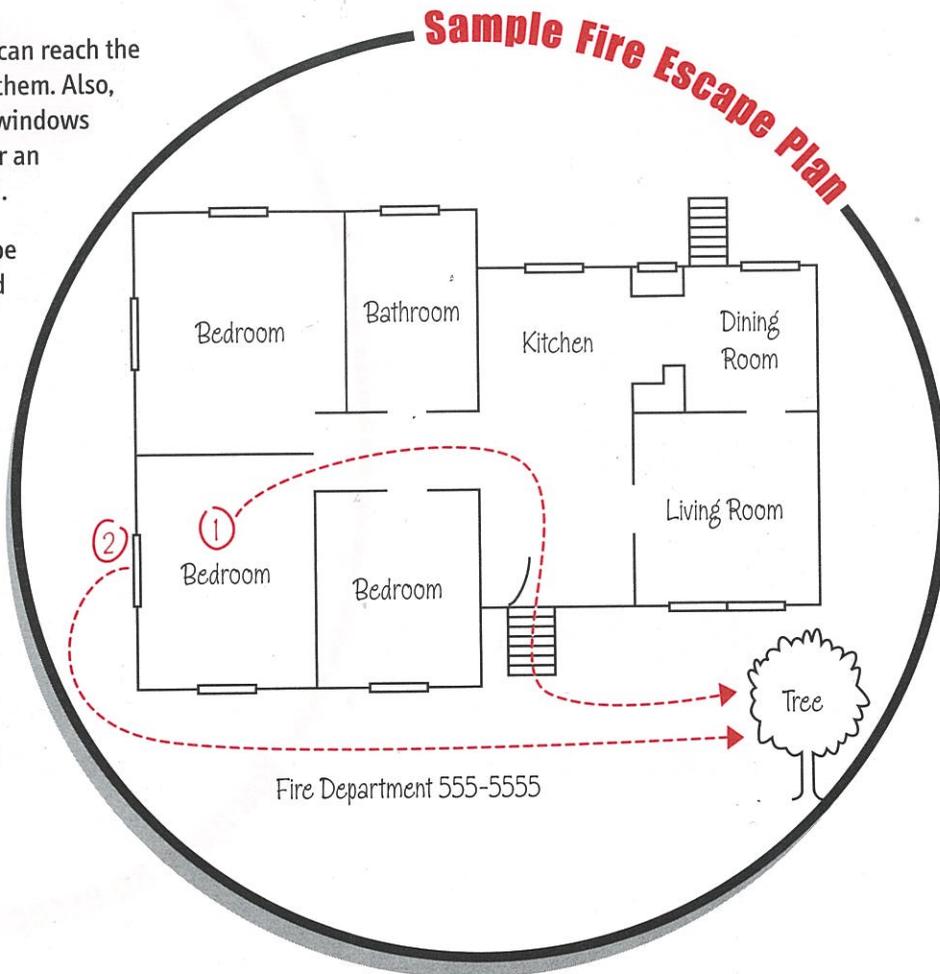
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# Plan Your Escape

- Meet with your family and draw a floor plan of your home or apartment like this sample.
- Include every room. Don't forget stairs, hallways, doors, porches and roofs.
- Walk through each room of your home and decide the best two ways to get out. If the door is blocked by fire, use the window. Make sure everyone knows about both exits.
- Make sure children can reach the windows and open them. Also, make sure that the windows are large enough for an adult to get through.
- You may need escape ladders from second floor windows.
- Rearrange rooms as necessary to make escape easier for small children, the elderly or the disabled.
- Pick one family member who will give extra help to those in need, such as young children or grandparents.

- Whenever possible, sleep with your bedroom door closed. This will delay the time it will take for smoke to enter your bedroom.
- In a fire, don't waste time getting dressed or looking for your special things or pets. Your life is more important!
- Choose a meeting place outside where your family can gather and be accounted for.



# Practice the Escape Plan

Now that you have drawn your escape route, put the plan into action and practice!

- Decide on a date for the drill. Make sure everyone knows it's a practice drill.
- Begin with everyone in his or her bed.
- Press the smoke alarm test button (so everyone knows what it sounds like) or use a bell.
- Everyone should roll out of bed, stay low and feel the door for heat.

During your first practice: Use the main exit. In a real fire, you would open the door slowly and be ready to close it if there is heat or smoke.

During your second practice: Pretend the doors are hot. Everyone must use the second way out.

- Gather at your meeting place and check that everyone is out of your home.
- Pick someone to pretend to call the fire department (911 or your local emergency phone number).
- Repeat the process as a daytime drill with family members in other rooms.
- After your practice drill, talk about what happened. Make changes to the plan if necessary.

## Practice your escape plan every month.

You will need to change your plan, and practice it again, if:

- Family members change bedrooms.
- If you remove, rearrange or add furniture.
- There are changes to the floor plan of your house.
- Or, if you move.



The more you practice, the easier it will be to act in an emergency.

## Test your smoke alarms every month.

You can buy smoke alarms at most department stores at a low cost. If you don't have one, get one. For more information about smoke alarms, contact your local fire department.

