

We want you to know<sup>®</sup>



## GET OUT ✓

Close the door. Do not attempt to fight the fire unless it is the only way to save your life or the life of someone else.

## CALL 911 ✓

Dial 911 from a neighbor's telephone and be prepared to provide the address, nearest cross street and a call back telephone number. Do not hang up.

## Fire Prevention

Place your fire extinguisher in a visible location, preferably near an exit.

### Brush Fire

- Provide a protection space around your home.
- Remove flammable vegetation and other combustible growth within 30 feet of any structures. Thin out or remove vegetation an additional 70 feet from the structure to a total of 100 feet.
- Plant fire resistant plants around your home.
- Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches and leaves.
- Clear your roof and gutters of dead leaves and pine needles.
- Ensure there are no branches near chimney.
- Stack wood 30 feet from structures. Remove flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles.
- Clear back flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and driveways.
- Cut overhanging tree branches above roads to provide minimum of 16 feet of clearance.
- Make sure street names and numbers are visible at intersections.
- Post address in front of the house and make sure it is visible.
- Create a 10-foot clearance from chimney tops to trees or anything close.



More fire prevention tips on back.

## Never play with matches!

If your clothes were to catch on fire, to avoid death or serious injury:

**“Stop, Drop and Roll”**

## What to do in a fire...

### House Fires

- **Call 911**
- If you suspect a fire, make sure everyone is out and safe, including pets.
- Once out of the residence, **stay out**.
- If you become trapped in a room, these steps are recommended:
  1. Keep the door closed. Opening the door will decrease your chance of survival.
  2. Stay low to the floor. Smoke rises and fresher air remains lower to the ground.
  3. Wait by the window and identify your distress.
  4. Don't hide under beds or in closets.
  5. Seal the bottom of the door with blankets or clothing to keep smoke out.



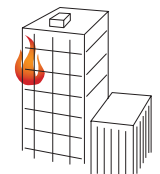
### Apartment Fires

- Residents may face two situations. The first is a fire in the apartment you live in. Second is a fire in someone else's apartment. In either case, it is best to have a plan and know precisely how to respond.
- If there is a fire in your apartment, it is important to slow the fire spread by closing the doors behind you, so other people will have time to evacuate the building.
- Call 911 immediately, and then alert others in the building of the fire.
- Activate the fire alarm if there is one.
- Identify two exits out of your apartment, and make them known to other family members.



### Multi-Story Building Fires

- Do not use elevator.
- Find evacuation signs in the stairwell landing that will give you information.
- Fire doors in the halls should never be blocked open for any reason.



**Make sure your home has address numbers that can be seen from the street.**

# FIRE SAFETY - Preparedness

## Family Plan

- As a family, discuss various emergencies and develop plans for the family to deal with them. A home evacuation plan should contain procedures for actions taken during a fire and other emergencies, showing alternate escape routes and an assembly point.
  1. Draw a floor plan of your home.
  2. Physically check the exit routes to be sure that anyone can use them.
- Smoke detectors are simple, automatic devices to provide notification. You may also consider providing each bedroom with a whistle as a manual method of notifying the family to get out.
- At the sound of an alarm or if you suspect there is a fire in your home, get out. If you reach a closed door, feel it before opening. If it is hot, do not open it. If the door is cool to the touch, open it cautiously.
- Stay low and be prepared to close the door quickly if heat or smoke is present.
- The first thing to consider, when evacuating from a two-story home or a second floor, is an escape ladder.
- In a two-story building, if you must go out the window without a ladder, lower yourself out of the window feet first, facing the building. Hang down from the window sill at arm's length and drop to the ground.

## Security Devices

- Security bars must open from the inside in every room used for sleeping.
- Make sure that everyone in the family knows how to use any release devices in case of an emergency.
- Test devices twice a year.

## Smoke Detectors

- Test smoke detectors at least once a month and change the batteries every six months.
- Detectors located on the ceiling should be at least 6 inches from the wall. If located on the wall they should be mounted at least 4 inches from the ceiling.
- Your home needs a smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, even the basement.
- Do not remove the batteries because of nuisance alarms, such as steam from showers, etc.
- Keep detectors clean.
- In case of someone with a hearing loss, consider detectors that activate lights, bed shakers or fans.

## Fire Prevention

### Plugs and Outlets

- Do not overload outlets.
- Do not run electrical cords under carpets or doors.

### Barbeque

- Do not light it in the house.
- Do not add fuel if it is lit.
- Do not throw lit coals in trash.
- Do not let kids play around barbecue.

### Fireworks

- Check if they are legal in your area.
- If allowed, only use safe and sane approved fireworks.
- Do not let kids play with them or be near them when lit.

### Flammable Liquids and Materials

- Do not store flammable materials near a heat source (water heater/dryer, etc.).
- Do not use gasoline for cleaning purposes or for lighting the barbecue.
- Move wooden furniture away from the fireplace.



In cooperation with Community Partners, local Department of Parks and Recreation, Fire Departments and City Governments.

Visit our website to find your local Red Cross chapter, and enroll in a CPR or First Aid course today!

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



American Red Cross