



Shakopee Fire Prevention Bureau

- All-Hazard Safety Education
- Fire Code Enforcement
- Fire Investigation

Home fires are responsible for over half of all fire deaths. Most fatal home fires occur at night, when flames, smoke and toxic gases gain headway while people are sleeping. That is why a smoke detector and home fire escape plan is a “must” for everyone. A fire escape plan can be a lifesaver in single and multi-family homes, apartments, town homes and condominiums.

Creating A Home Fire Escape Plan

1. Draw a floor plan of your home. Show all the doors and windows, as well as stairways, porches and balconies.
2. Figure two ways out of each room. Escape routes may include doors and/or windows. Indicate both escape routes on your floor plan. Draw your plan so that you can follow a wall all the way to your front door. You may want to invest in an escape ladder if your bedrooms are on the second story of your home.
3. Have a home fire drill. Be sure everyone, including your children, knows what to do. Get out as quickly and safely as you can. Do not include anything you cannot practice, like breaking a window.
4. If there is anyone in your home with special needs, (infants, young children, elderly or those requiring special assistance) assign someone to help them get out.
5. Agree on a meeting place outside your home where you can check to see if everyone got out safely.
6. Call the Fire Department (911) from a neighbor's home.
7. Let the firefighters fight the fire. Never go back inside for anything. Your life is more valuable than any possession you may own.

Practicing Your Home Escape Plan

1. Start by walking the escape plan route several times. Use your hands to feel your way out of the house.
2. After you have walked your escape route try crawling low. During a fire you may have to crawl low under smoke to escape from the fire. Remember when you get to any stairs from an upper level, turn around and go down feet first. Practice crawling the route several times.
3. Continue to practice the route at night. Make sure to turn off all the lights in the house. Most fires where injury or death occurs happen when we are sleeping.
4. You should practice your escape plan at least 2 times every year.

Fire Prevention Tips

1. Install smoke detectors in your home to alert you if a fire breaks out. Many people who die in fires never wake up. Toxic gasses from the fire put them into a deeper sleep.
2. Test your smoke detectors monthly. If they operate by battery or have a battery back up replace the battery at least once a year.
3. Know the emergency number to call for help, 911.
4. Know how to report a fire. Tell the dispatcher you wish to report a fire, give your name, address, phone number and location of the fire. If possible, stay on the line until the dispatcher hangs up.
5. Check to see that you can hear the smoke alarm in your bedroom with the door closed. Sleeping with the door closed can help keep deadly toxic gases out of your bedroom during a fire.
6. If you awaken during the night smelling smoke and hearing your smoke detector ringing DON'T rush out into the hallway. The heat, smoke and toxic gases may kill you. Put the back of your hand against the door. If it feels cool, it should be safe to peek into the hallway. Bracing the door with your foot, open it slightly and place the back of your hand across the opening to determine how hot the air is. If the air is not hot, and there are no flames or smoke, you might be able to use this route to escape. If the door feels hot, the hallway is already filled with deadly heated gases. KEEP THE DOOR CLOSED. Use your second route to escape. If you cannot get out, let the firefighters know you are trapped. Call for help and hang a sheet or other item out the window.
7. REMEMBER Use your ESCAPE PLAN.
8. Get everyone out of the house FIRST! Go to a neighbor's home to call 911 and report the fire.

