

Fire Safety Plan for Family Dwellings

78% of deaths from fire occur in the home, usually between 2am and 4am while occupants are asleep. Developing a fire safety plan can help protect your family from such tragedy.

Step 1 - Plan a family meeting and discuss the following:

- Where your meeting spot is located in case of a fire (e.g. a specific tree, street light, or neighbour's house)
- Identify possible escape routes from each room, try to find more than one way out of each room.
- If someone in the home has mobility limitations assign someone to help them escape and an alternate if that person is not home.
- Ensure kids know how to contact emergency services and know the street address.
- In your safety plan, mark where the smoke, CO2 detectors and fire extinguishers are located.

Step 2 - Organize a walkthrough of your home.

- Ensure that escape routes have no obstructions
- Look to see that every bedroom has a working smoke detector and that outside of sleeping areas have a working smoke alarm/CO2 detector.
- If windows have safety bars on them, ensure the safety bars have an emergency release so they can quickly be removed during an emergency.
- Two storey homes should have escape ladders to help those on the second storey escape.
- Check to see that the house number is visible from the road.

Step 3: Practice

- Do a practice run. Stay calm, stay low and keep moving until everyone has reached the designated meeting spot. Practice your plan twice a year.
- If you have a two storey home, practice using safety ladders from the first floor. This way if there is a real emergency you will have practice using this.
- Determine if members of the home can sleep through fire alarms, if so have a designated person to wake the individual(s) in an emergency or try strobe or voice smoke alarms.

Step 4: Maintenance

- Change batteries in smoke/CO2 detectors every six months, and replace detectors every 10 years
- Purchase an A-B-C fire extinguisher, with the rating based on the fuel: 'A' originates from a wood or paper fire, 'B' is caused by flammable liquids and 'C' is an electrical fire. Learn how to use this fire extinguisher (remembering the acronym PASS. Pull the pin, Aim the extinguisher, Squeeze or press the handle and Sweep side-to-side at the base of the fire). If you already own a fire extinguisher, check it once a month.
- Make sure babysitters understand your fire escape plan.