

# Health & Safety Awareness

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Latest news and bulletin updates

## EMERGENCY PLANNING

### Fires don't take holidays...

Fires occur when we least expect them and can occur anywhere and anytime making it important for anyone in the home to understand these hazards.

Statistics have shown that fires can spread so quickly and rapidly that families and individuals may have only one to two minutes to evacuate their homes in the event of a fire.

An emergency can be defined as any situation or occurrence of a serious nature, developing suddenly and unexpectedly, and demanding immediate action

In the event of an emergency, it is important for all members in the household to know how to get to safety. Being prepared can save lives, protect property and prevent further damage to the environment.

By taking the time to create an emergency response plan and supplies kit, your family will be prepared in the event of a disaster. The kit also helps children feel more secure knowing it is there in case of an emergency.



### What is an Emergency Response Plan and why do I need one?

A fire safety plan is a detailed document that covers all aspects of fire safety for a specific property. The plan will outline: A safe and orderly way for occupants to evacuate the home safely.

An emergency response plan can be an important element to ensure you and your family have identified all the hazards in your home and created a plan to ensure that everyone gets out of the home safely and securely in the event of a fire.

Emergency Response procedures are steps you can take to:

- control the event; and
- minimize the consequences.
- Properly maintain the home and housekeeping that is required to prevent fires.

The fundamentals of Fire Safety Principles for prevent fire events include

- Prevention,
- Preparedness, Detection and Communication,
- Response- Occupant Protection,
- Recovery- Containment and Extinguishment



Interesting Fact	Interesting Facts	Interesting Facts
<b>Did you know that if you close doors during a fire, it will slowly starve the fire of oxygen. This will cut down on damage to property and spread of fire.</b>	<b>Did you know that according to a NFPA survey only one in every three household have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.</b>	<b>Nearly half a million pets are affected by house fires each year. Pets are responsible for starting over 1,000 house fires each year.</b>



## Fire Preparedness

What can we do ahead of time to ensure we are prepared in the event of a fire?

Being prepared for an incident can ensure that all persons know how and when to respond to the emergency.

We all see things a bit different and this is why its essential to involve everyone in the home when it comes to evacuation plan and the identification of fire hazards in the home.

**Home layout-** Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors

If your home has two floors, every family member (including children) must be able to escape from the second-floor rooms. Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route. Review the manufacturer's instructions carefully so you'll be able to use a escape ladder properly and safely in an emergency. Practice setting up the ladder from a first-floor window to make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with a grown-up, and only from a first-story window. Store the ladder near the window, in an easily accessible location. You don't want to have to search for it during a fire.

**Meeting points** - choose an indoor and an outdoor meeting point. Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.

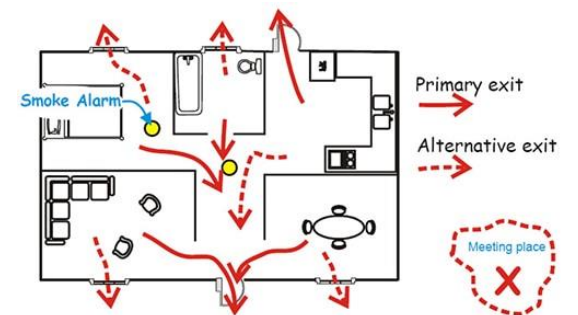
**Emergency contact information-** Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside. It would be good practice to include emergency services such as gas company and electric company as well.

**Ability & Disabilities-** Consider the abilities and disabilities within your home- Make arrangements in your plan for anyone in your home who has a disability. If there are infants, [older adults](#), or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency

**Pets should always be included in a family's evacuation plan.** Stay aware of their typical hiding spots and where they often nap in case you must evacuate quickly and assign a family member to account for each pet. Keep an emergency kit with food, medication, and a leash near the exit.



**Equipment** Install safety devices in and around the home- Install smoke detectors outside of sleeping areas, on every floor of the home and sounds be interconnected with other alarms in the home



## How to develop an Emergency Response plan

When we are creating a Emergency response plan here are the steps to be followed.

- Organize- Gather all required information
- Write- Collect all the procedures into one concise report that will collect all important information into one place.
- Designate- Assign one or two persons to write the plan. This will assist with consistency of information.

- Review- Review plan once completed to ensure clarity and understanding
- Dial- Check every number included in the emergency contacts to verify proper information.
- Ensure- Check information with all family members.

### Practice makes perfect

Once our plan is developed then now it's time to ensure that our plan will work. As identified in the previous information checking this information will ensure everyone knows what and when to do it. Here are some tips and additional information to consider for drills

- Practice in the daytime and at night. This should be done at least twice a year
- Practice different ways to exit the house.
- Know at least two ways in and out of each room.
- Keep a copy of this plan in an outdoor space to be utilized in the event of an emergency

### From your drill did you find ....

From the drills did you find that additional supplies were needed to get out safely? (Ladders, blankets)

- Create kits and supplies in an alternate place to be used in the event of an evacuation. (clothing, foot wear, assistive devices, wheelchairs etc).
- The supplies can be kept in a plastic tub, small suitcase, trash can, backpack or other container

Resources used:

[https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/get-ready/hand/e/supplies\\_kit\\_checklist.pdf?la=en](https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/community-tool-kits/get-ready/hand/e/supplies_kit_checklist.pdf?la=en)

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/EscapePlanningTips.pdf>

[Emergency Response Planning Guide \(ccohs.ca\)](#)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/11/nyregion/fire-safety-explained.html#:~:text=Closing%20doors%20can%20cut%20off,firefighters%20crucial%20time%20to%20respond.>

<https://www.minnieland.com/does-your-family-have-a-fire-safety-plan/>

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/PetSafetyTips.aspx>

<https://www.petinsurancereview.com/blog/how-create-fire-safety-plan-your-pet>

Pictures

<https://positively.com/contributors/fire-safety-tips-for-pets-and-apartment-living/>

[Does Your Family Have a Fire Safety Plan? - Minnieland Academy](#)