



# Lesson 1



Madison Fire & Rescue



# SMOKE ALARMS

## LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Explain the importance of smoke alarms, including maintenance and identifying correct placement
- List the three items your home fire escape plan must include
- Discuss safety measures to use when escaping a house fire
- Construct a personal home escape plan

**SMOKE** is the No. 1 **CAUSE** of death in fires in the home. People rarely burn to death in fires. They die as a result of **BREATHING SMOKE** and **POISONOUS GASES** caused by the fire.



A smoke alarm will let you know there is smoke in your house. **Smoke alarms should be tested once a month.** Standard batteries should be changed twice a year. Change your battery in the spring and fall when the time changes. Ten year sealed Lithium battery-powered smoke alarms should be changed when the low battery alarm sounds (chirps) and should also be tested monthly. The proper location of the smoke alarm is also important. It is recommended that there be one smoke alarm on every floor, outside every sleeping area, and in every bedroom.



# HOME ESCAPE PLAN

You must discuss and practice a home escape plan with your family so everyone will know what to do in case of a fire. Your home escape plan must include these three items:

1. The current locations of smoke alarms in your home
2. Two exits from each room
3. An outside meeting place

## EXITS

In most cases, the door will be the first exit and the window will be the second exit. Mark the locations of the smoke alarms in your home. Make sure you have at least one outside each bedroom area.

**If a smoke alarm wakes you up, do not sit up in the bed. Roll out of the bed, staying as low to the floor as possible.** Crawl in one direction until you find the wall. Place your hand on the wall using it as a guide, and follow it until you come to the door. Using the back of your hand, feel the door as high as you can without standing and then feel the doorknob. If the door or doorknob is hot, leave the door closed and go to the second exit. If the door is not hot, open it slowly while checking for smoke and heat. If you feel heat, or it's difficult to see or breathe, close the door quickly. **You cannot use this exit.**

You will have to use your second exit if the first exit is blocked by smoke, flame, or heat. If your second exit is up high, you may need an escape ladder or a knotted rope to reach the ground.

## SIGNALS

When your smoke alarm goes off, you must alert the family while **getting out and staying out**. Use a LOUD signal/phrase everyone agrees on.

*If you do not have a smoke alarm in your home, notify your teacher*



# HOME ESCAPE PLAN

## MEETING PLACE

Make sure your family's meeting place is a safe distance from your home and mark it on the escape plan.

**FACT:** People panic easily in emergencies if they are unprepared. Most severe home fires occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. -- when most people are asleep.

Practice having all members of your household report immediately to your outside meeting place during fire drills.

Once you are outside, go to the meeting place. Memorize 911 or your local fire department emergency phone number, and call from a neighbor's phone or cell phone.

**My Meeting Place Is:**

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# How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



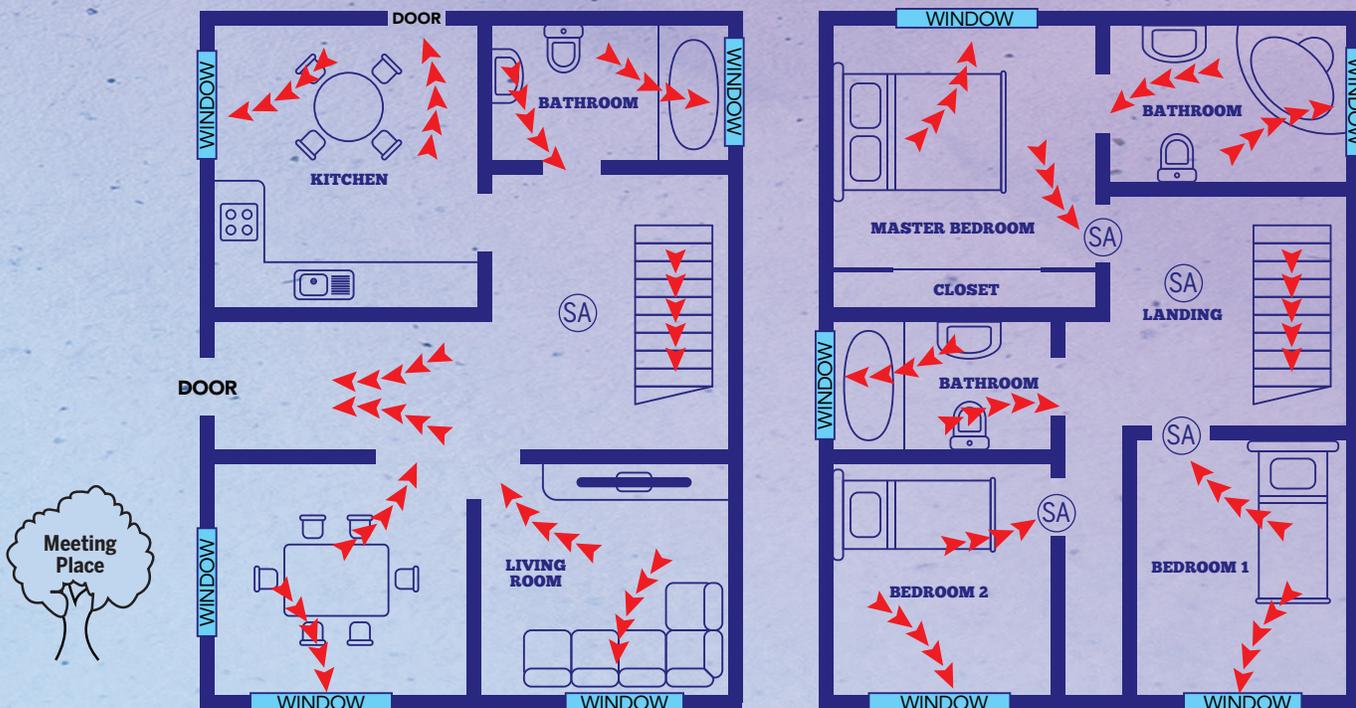
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- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.

## Sample Escape Plan



**1st FLOOR**

**2nd FLOOR**

**Kids**

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# HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Please talk with your parents and together circle one answer following each question.

Does your home have at least one working smoke alarm?  
Yes No If Yes How Many? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a smoke alarm located outside your sleeping area?  
Yes No

Is there a smoke alarm inside of your sleeping area?  
Yes No

Does someone test the smoke alarm monthly?  
Yes No

Are smoke alarms located away from all ceiling fans, air vents, etc.?  
Yes No

Does your family have a home fire escape plan?  
Yes No

Do you practice your fire escape plan at least twice a year?  
Yes No

Does your family discuss your fire escape plan with neighbors or relatives?  
Yes No





# HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Do you have access to the internet in your home?

Yes No Does not apply

Does your home have a landline?

Yes No Does not apply

In the wintertime, do you use space heaters?

Yes No Does not apply

Does your family have a plan for severe weather?

Yes No Does not apply

How does your family get emergency alerts in bad weather?

Weather Radio Cell Phone

Do you limit the use of extension cords, and make it a rule to never overload electrical outlets?

Yes No

Do you check for smoldering cigarettes before going to bed?

Yes No Does not apply

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Parent's signature



## QUIZ

1. Most severe home fires occur between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ when most people are asleep.
2. People rarely burn to death in fires but die as a result of breathing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ gases caused by the fire.
3. If your second exit is up too high, you may need a \_\_\_\_\_ or a \_\_\_\_\_ to reach the ground.
4. A smoke alarm should be tested once a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Standard smoke alarm batteries should be changed twice a year (spring and fall). Remember "change your \_\_\_\_\_, change your \_\_\_\_\_."
6. The recommended location for smoke alarms is on every \_\_\_\_\_, outside every \_\_\_\_\_ area, and in every \_\_\_\_\_.
7. If a smoke alarm wakes you up, you shouldn't sit up in the bed, but \_\_\_\_\_ out of bed, staying as \_\_\_\_\_ to the floor as possible.
8. When you get to the door for possible escape, you should \_\_\_\_\_ the door with the back of your \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ on the door as possible without standing.
9. If the door or doorknob is \_\_\_\_\_, leave the door closed and go to the exit.