HOME FIRE SAFETY PREPAREDNESS

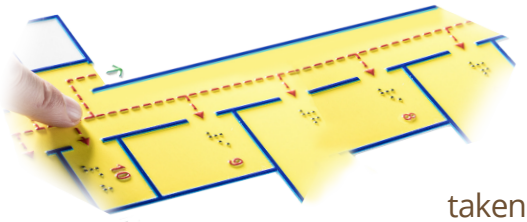
More than 3,200 Americans die each year in fires, with more than 15,000 people who are injured. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has tips on how you and your family can stay safe and prepare for emergencies.

Create Your Escape Plan

Smoke alarms can only alert you about danger, but you need to take action! Come up with an escape plan and practice it twice a year.

Here is what you need to know to create your family's evacuation plan:

1. **Immediately Leave Your Home** – Do not waste time gathering and protecting belongings. Get out and then call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.
2. **Know Two Ways Out of Each Room** – If the primary exit is blocked, you will need a second way out; it can be a window or by using an escape ladder. Practice escaping through both exits. If you use a window as an escape route, make sure there are no bars on the windows. If there are bars, ensure they have a quick release lever on them. Also, be sure window screens can be taken off quickly.



3. **Feel the Door** – Before opening a door during a fire, touch the doorknob with the back of your hand to make sure it is not hot. If it is, a fire may possibly be on the other side which means a secondary escape route should be used. Even if the door feels cool, open it carefully.
4. **Designate a Meeting Place** – Agree on a location that is a safe distance where everyone can meet. A meeting place lets you know that everyone has gotten out safely.
5. **Once Out, Stay Out** – Never go back into a burning building for any reason! If someone is missing, tell firefighters. They are trained and equipped to perform rescues safely.

Safety Tips

SMOKE ALARMS – Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm. Change batteries every six months on each smoke alarm to ensure it works properly.

PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES – Never overload circuits or extension cords. Do not place cords or wires under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.

USE APPLIANCES WISELY – When using appliances, follow the manufacturer's safety precautions. Unusual smells, shorts or sparks are all indications that the appliance needs to be shut off and replaced or repaired. Unplug appliances when not in use.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE – Make an escape plan for every room in the house and practice it at least twice a year.

TEACH CHILDREN – Take the mystery out of fire by teaching them that fire is a tool, **NOT** a toy.

PORTABLE HEATERS – Give portable heaters their own space. For your safety, keep anything flammable or combustible at least three feet away from any heater.

SAFELY PLUG IN CORDS – To avoid risk of fire, plug cords directly into a wall socket rather than using an extension cords.

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