Close doors behind you. Closed doors will slow the flow of oxygen to the fire and give you added time to escape.

Learn how to escape from windows. If you are on the first story, exit the window feet first. Grab on to the ledge and hang down as far as you can and then jump. Do not attempt to exit a window any higher than one story except as a last resort.

Do not use an elevator. If you live in a high-rise, locate the fire escape and use it. A fire can disable the elevator, and you could be trapped.

Parents - tell your children not to hide from a fire, but to get out and stay out!

Planning and practicing a home escape plan with the entire family can be fun. Involve your children. Let someone time the drill and watch it. Practice the drill with an exit blocked and other challenges that could be present during a real house fire. **Make sure your children know not to hide under their bed, in a closet, or in a bathroom.**

In Texas, 65% of deaths due to fire occur in the HOME.

Annually, more than 16,000 residential structure fires are reported in Texas. These fires result in:

- An excess of $284 million in property loss
- 900 injuries
- More than 100 fatalities
- About 25% of victims are age 14 and under

Test your smoke alarms monthly.

Install smoke detectors

- On every level of your house
- In hallways outside of sleeping areas
- In each bedroom

Change all batteries twice a year. There are also alarms available with 10-year batteries, and some models that include voice alerts and a carbon monoxide alarm.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends that you **replace all units that are more than 10 years old.**

State Fire Marshal's Office

Texas Department of Insurance
333 Guadalupe Street
PO Box 149221 - MC 112-FM
Austin, TX 78714
512-305-7900

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HOME SAFETY SERIES

Preparing a HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

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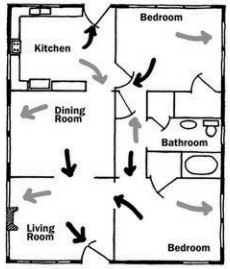
You wake up in the middle of the night hearing the constant, loud beeping sound of your smoke alarm. It is pitch black and smoke is all around you. Do you know what to do?

Have a plan and practice it reguarly.

Too often, people panic in this situation because they do not know what to do. You and your family should make a fire escape plan to ensure that everyone gets out of the house quickly.

Use the grid at right to make a fire escape plan. All family members should know the plan. Make sure that someone is assigned to help young children and older family members.



Know two ways out of every room. If smoke or fire blocks an exit, use an alternate route such as a window. If you have burgler bars on your windows, they should be equipped with a quick release mechanism.

Plan a meeting place where everyone will go. Call 911 from your cell phone or a neighbor's house. **Do not go back into your house!**

Practice your exit plan until it becomes automatic.

Know what to do when you hear an alarm.

When you hear a smoke alarm go off or someone yelling "fire" or "smoke," you may have as little as a minute or two to get out of the house alive.

Get down on the floor and crawl low if smoke has filled the house. Both smoke and heat rise, so if you stay low you will avoid the high heat and toxic fumes.

Check doors before opening. Look for smoke coming out from around the frame. Feel the door with the back of your hand for heat. It will be hot to the touch if there is a fire on the other side.

Open doors slowly and carefully. If a door is cool enough to open, you will still need to be cautious. There could still be fire on the other side. When you open the door, put your head down and turn your face away from the opening. Open slightly so it will be easy to close if you detect a fire.

Fire Escape Plan	**date:**

meeting place: