



Santa Barbara County Fire Department

Public Information / Education Office

4410 Cathedral Oaks Rd.
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93110

Escape Drills in the Home

Every household should have a home fire escape plan and practice Escape Drills in the Home (E.D.I.T.H.). If a fire should occur, having a plan that you and your family have practiced can lead to a safe escape.

You should plan and practice two escape routes; one route using hallways and stairways, and a second route using windows in case the hallways and stairways are blocked by smoke or fire. Please join the Santa Barbara County Fire Department in helping to save lives by completing a home fire escape plan.

Here's how

- Begin your escape plan by drawing an outline of your house. Include every room and label them.
- Show windows, doors, hallways and stairways.
- Use a black pen to draw arrows showing your regular escape route through hallways and stairways.
- Now use a red pen to draw arrows showing your alternate escape route through windows. The alternate route is to be used if there is smoke or fire in the hallways or stairways.
- **Identify a meeting place for your family to meet outside of the house.**

Practice Your Plan

- Practice both of your escape plans. Practice two escape drills; one using your regular route and a second using your alternate route.
- Start by closing all of the bedroom doors.
- Then set off the smoke detector by pushing the test button.
- **REMEMBER! Always test the doors for heat before opening them.**
- If the door is hot or warm, do not open it. Instead, use your alternative route.
- If the door does not feel hot to the touch, open the door a crack to see if there is smoke. If there is no smoke, exit the house.
- If you find heavy smoke, close the door and use your alternative escape route. Go to your family meeting place outside.

Remember These Tips!

- Install a smoke detector on every level of your home, inside of each bedroom, and in the hallways.
- Check your smoke detector monthly to make sure it is working properly.
- Make sure to plan for assisting family members who are unable to escape on their own.
- Practice both your primary and alternative escape routes.
- Check to make sure all windows open easily.
- Never waste time getting dressed or gathering valuables.
- Always test doors for heat before opening.
- **Crawl low on the floor to avoid smoke.**
- Exit quickly and calmly.
- Go to your family meeting place outside.
- In an actual fire, once you get out, stay out!
- Call 911 from a neighbor's house.