

5

minute safety talk



Family fire escape plan

In only a matter of minutes, a small house fire can rage out of control. Heat temperatures from the fire can reach up to 1,500° F. The flames emit carbon monoxide – an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas – which can cause immediate unconsciousness, followed by death.

Every family should practice a home escape plan to follow in the event of a fire. The plan should include drawing a diagram of your home, marking the locations of windows and doors, planning two escape routes out of every room, setting up a meeting place outside of the home for everyone to go following an escape, and practicing the escape plan once a month. Every member of the family and frequent visitors to the home should know and practice the escape route. FEMA stresses that even children as young as 3 years old can understand an escape plan.

Bringing safety home (tips for safety professionals):

- Encourage employees to develop a family fire safety plan.
- Educate employees about smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Employee activity ideas:

- Teach employees how to use fire extinguishers.
- Provide information on creating a fire safety plan and a home fire safety checklist for employees to take home and complete with their families.

Safety tips:

- Complete a home fire safety checklist and identify fire risks in your home.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Make sure everyone in the home can hear the smoke alarm from their bedrooms.
- Make a family fire escape plan and practice it once a month.
- Make sure everyone in the house understands the family fire escape plan.
- Place fire extinguishers throughout your home and make sure everyone in the house knows how to use them.
- Never leave food unattended on the stove, keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children, and don't place portable heaters near flammable materials. These are all major fire risks.

Community linkages:

- Know the number for the local fire department.
- Attend events offered by the local fire department.

Resources:

- Home Safety Council http://homesafetycouncil.org/SafetyGuide/sg_safetyguide_w001.asp
- FireSafety.gov <http://www.firesafety.gov/>
- U.S. Fire Administration http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/index.shtm