SafetyTIPS from Portland Fire & Rescue's Prevention Division
An information resource for citizens

Portland Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal's Office
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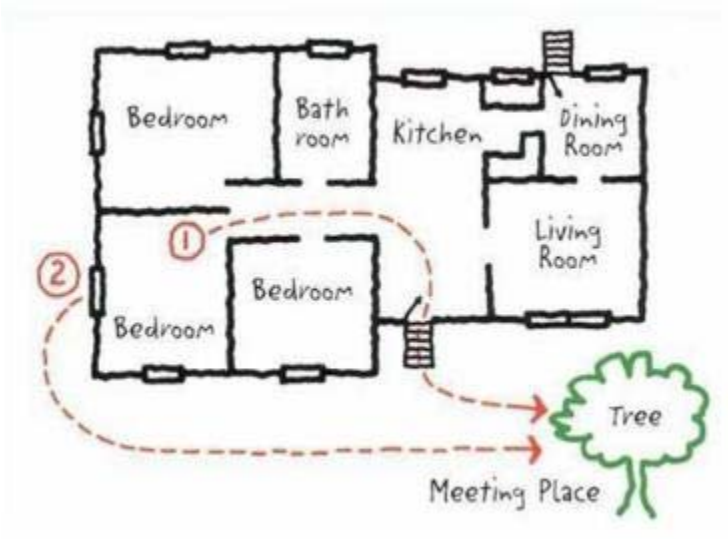
Home Fire Escape Plan

In 2007, there were an estimated 399,000 reported home structure fires and 2,865 associated civilian deaths in the United States. Fire can spread quickly through your home, leaving you little time to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning — a home fire escape plan that everyone in your family is familiar with and has practiced.

What You and Your Family Should Know

Be Proactive



- Draw a home escape plan and discuss it with everyone in your home.
- Practice the plan at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place away from the home where everyone should meet.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

React Quickly

- If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Do not go back inside.
- If you have to escape through smoke, get low close to the floor and go under the smoke to your way out.
- Feel the knob and door before opening a door.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.
- Call the 9-1-1 from outside your home.

Contact Portland Fire & Rescue's Public Education Office for assistance in planning a home fire escape plan at (503) 823-3700.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY TODAY!