



# Home Fire Checklist

## Early Warning and Escape

Your family's chance to escape a home fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance escape planning on your part.

Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds.

According to a National Fire Protection Association survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.

**One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less.

And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

That's why it's so important to have your alarms installed correctly and a home escape plan in place.

This document will take you through the steps .

## Smoke Alarms: Your First Line of Defense

- Install alarms on every level of your home outside of each sleeping area and in each bedroom.
- Make sure alarms are on the ceiling or 4-12 inches below the ceiling on the wall. Locate them away from air vents or registers; high air flow or "dead spots" are to be avoided.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper maintenance. Smoke alarms can save lives, but only if properly installed and maintained.
- Excessive dust, grease, or other material in the alarm may cause it to fail. Vacuum the grillwork of your alarm.



## SMOKE ALARMS

To protect your home and your family, you should be able to check Yes on all of these:

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▪ Smoke alarms are installed on every floor of my home.  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Smoke alarms are placed in and near each bedroom, either on the ceiling or 4"-12" below the ceiling on the wall. | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Smoke alarms are tested according to manufacturer's instructions.  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Batteries are replaced when needed.  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ The alarm can be heard whether asleep or awake.  | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Your Escape Plan: Every Second Counts

- Establish and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Teach your children the proper use of the 9-1-1 system.
- Draw a map of each level of your home; show all doors and windows.
- Find two ways out of each room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.



*Map your escape plan*

## HOME ESCAPE PLAN

To protect your home and your family, you should be able to check Yes on all of these:

- |  |     |                          |    |                          |
|--|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| ▪ Do you have an escape plan?                              | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Is it practiced regularly?                               | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ The escape plan includes a safe place to meet up?        | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Are there two ways out of every room?                    | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ The 9-1-1 emergency number is posted on every telephone. | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Don't be too late with a home fire escape plan

**It's too late** to start developing a home fire escape plan when fire strikes. Everyone in the home needs to be prepared in advance, so that they can snap into action when the smoke alarm sounds.



*Practice your home escape plan!*

Smoke alarms provide the minutes needed to escape a fire safely. Home fire escape planning and practice ensure that everyone knows how to best use that time effectively.

A home escape plan includes:

- ✓ Two exits from every room in the home (usually a door and a window).
- ✓ Properly installed, working smoke alarms throughout the home.
- ✓ A meeting place outside and in front of the home where everyone will meet immediately upon exiting.
- ✓ Access to and knowledge of 9-1-1.



*Test according to manufacturer's instructions*

If you have questions or need additional information about free smoke alarms, please call:

**Portland Fire & Rescue**  
**503-823-3752**