Designing An Escape Plan

- Include the entire family in your preparations.
- Determine two ways of escape from each room.
- Make sure windows can be opened in the event you must exit a fire.
- Discuss and agree on what to do with a pet if a fire breaks out; you may not have time to save your pet.
- Designate a place outside where the family members can meet after escaping a fire.
- In a fire, crawl low on the floor with your mouth and nose covered.

GET OUT AND STAY OUT!!
CALL 911

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New Orleans Fire Department
Est. 1891

Fire Safety Tips

Chief Timothy A. McConnell
Superintendent of Fire

“Seeking Opportunities to Serve”
Fire is an important part of our lives. We use it to cook food and we use it as a source of warmth on a cold night. But, if uncontrolled, fire can bring injury—and even death—to those we love. Unwelcome fires can erupt from a cooking pot left on the stove.

Smart fire safety kids will always remember:

- Never play with matches or lighters.
- Make sure your house has a smoke detector; ask the grown-ups in your house to check it often to make sure its working.
- Ask your family if they will help you come up with an escape plan to get everyone out of the house in case of a fire or other emergencies.
- If you see a fire breaking out, quickly tell an adult and leave right away.
- If the smoke is bad, cover your mouth with a cloth; crawl low on the floor until you get to the door or window.
- Don't hide, go outside.
- While trying to exit the house during a fire, always touch doors with the back of your hand to see if they are hot before you open them.
- If your clothes are on fire, stop, drop to the ground and roll until the flames go out.
- Know your local emergency number (911) and dial it from a neighbor's house.

Fires don't just happen. There are a lot of measures you can take to help minimize the possibility of a fire. Here are a few important things you can do.

- Install a smoke detector on every level of your home. Check it monthly and replace batteries when necessary.
- Have an electrician look at the wiring in your house. Make sure circuits are not overloaded.
- Have all heating units, such as wood stoves, space heaters, etc., checked by an expert annually.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach and away from children.

On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

Americans over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of dying in a fire. Seventy-five percent of the 1,300 seniors who perish each year in fires do not have a working smoke detector in their homes.

Tips for seniors, remember to do the following:

- Have a smoke detector installed in your home; make sure it's checked out at least monthly.
- Have a licensed electrician examine the wiring in your home; also, have the wiring on your appliances checked out.
- Keep space heaters away from combustible materials.
- Never cook in loose-fitting clothing that could catch fire over the stove.
- If you must smoke, do not smoke in bed, around upholstered furniture or near anything that may ignite easily.
- Keep your address and directions to your house next to your phone, in case you have to call to report an emergency.
- If a fire breaks out, put a cloth or towel over your mouth and nose, and crawl low on the floor to the nearest exit.
- In case of a fire: get out of the house immediately; call for assistance; and do not go back into the house for any reason.
- Talk to other seniors about starting a fire prevention education group; invite a fire official to a meeting.