

Home Fire Escape Planning



Horry County Fire Rescue

Community Safety Guideline

Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH)

Most fires in the home occur between 8 pm. and 8 am. Consequently, it is very important that every household have a home fire escape plan so each person can get out quickly and safely. Once developed, the home fire escape plan should to be practiced each month, so everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire, and where the meeting place is located.

Statistics show that more than 2,500 fire deaths occur in our homes year, and over 13,400 injuries occur in these same fires. Unfortunately, only one in four households have created and practiced a home fire escape plan.

According to the US Fire Administration, a sound fire escape plan will greatly reduce the potential for entrapment, protecting you and your family if a fire were to occur in your home.



Five Quick Tips

1. Develop a fire escape plan.
2. Involve all family members when developing the plan.
3. Establish a safe meeting place outside.
4. Understand the dangers of smoke and how to react.
5. Practice your plan so that each person knows exactly what to do, and where to go once outside.

Fire Escape Planning

Each family member must know exactly what to do in case of a fire in their home. It is important to practice "Exit Drills In The Home" (EDITH)

- Plan in advance by making sure you have working smoke alarms in your home.
- In your escape route, include two exits from each room if possible.
- Practice your plan at night and during the day at least twice a year. Use different escape routes each time.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from the house, such as a large tree or mailbox.
- Teach your children to escape on their own in case you cannot get to them.
- Provide for those that require additional help such as the disabled, infants, or the elderly. Include these provisions in the escape plan and practice them.

Dealing with Smoke and Heat

- Smoke and heat rises. This is why firefighters crawl through buildings on their hands and knees.
- Stay low. If you stand up, smoke may incapacitate you before you can escape.
- Smoke can be fatal. Most fire victims die from smoke, not fire.
- Drop and crawl. When you encounter smoke, drop to your knees or stomach, and crawl to the nearest exit.
- With the back of your hand, test room doors for heat. If the door is hot, find another exit.

The mailbox in the front of your home makes a great meeting place for your family