Fire Safety

If you had only seconds to get your family out, could you make it?



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Fires and burns are the third-leading cause of unintentional death among children 1 to 14 years old — and 84 percent of fire deaths occur in the home.

A fire can happen in an instant and devastate a family forever. Plan ahead — keep these fire safety tips handy, and use them.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. A working smoke alarm reduces the chance of dying in a fire by nearly half.
- Test smoke alarms once a month; change batteries once a year and when the alarm "chirps" to warn that the battery is low.
- Make sure you have two exits (doors and/or windows) out of every room.
- Make and practice an escape plan with your family. Choose a safe meeting place outside.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Keep matches and lighters locked away, out of children's reach.
- Never smoke in bed.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Keep children away from cooking and heating appliances.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms in a central location, outside sleeping areas and on every level of the home.
- Turn off space heaters whenever you leave the room.
- Keep heaters a safe distance (three feet) away from anything that can burn.

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