

*When Seconds Count!*

# Conducting your Fire Escape Drill



## **Family fire escape floor plan**

Practice your fire escape plan every six months

### **Step 1 (Basic floor layout)**

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Dimensions need not be exact.
- Label each room.
- Locate windows, doors and stairways.

### **Step 2 (Room inspection)**

- Go to each room. Select your first means of escape. Select your second means of escape.
- Test the window, screen and storm window to see if they work easily and are large enough to use as your escape route.

### **Step 3 (Complete escape plan)**

- Show normal exits through halls or stairwells by black arrows.
- Show second exits in case of blocked halls and stairwells by coloured arrows.
- Be sure **EVERYONE** has an emergency escape route.
- If necessary consider installing an escape ladder or rearranging bedrooms
- Locate children in bedrooms with easy rooftop escapes.
- Your home fire drill should not be scary. Make it fun for young children.

In an emergency they will follow directions instead of panicking and hiding under beds or in closets. Gather your family together for a short explanation of your fire drill procedure. Perform your first practice in the daylight.

Later, pick a time to practice when it is dark.

## **All Set? Drill Begins!**

- Everyone is in his or her bedroom— doors closed.
- Sound the alarm— activate the smoke alarm or call out **Fire! Fire! Fire!** Have a child perform this task for practise.

- Everyone swing into action— out of bed... to the door.
- Stay low— smoke and heat rise, so air is safer closer to the floor.
- Test the door with the back of your hand— if the door is hot, don't open it.
- If the door is cool, place your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. Close it fast if smoke comes in.
- Follow your escape plan just as if it was a real fire.

### **First Drill**

If hallway is clear – proceed out of the house using your first escape route and gather outside at your meeting place.

### **Second Drill**

Imagine the hall is filled with smoke. Close the door and exit through your second escape route.

Depending on age and capability, you need not actually leave the house but be sure everyone can open windows and screens easily, and position an emergency escape ladder or any other necessary piece of equipment quickly and safely.

If all routes are impassable, close doors and seal cracks with a blanket or a pillow. Go to a window and signal with a bright colored cloth or flashlight.

## **Remember...**

Most fire emergencies happen at night. Your family will not get a second chance. Everyone must act quickly, correctly and automatically and they will if you give them that chance.

It's your responsibility— **do it!**

Use this pamphlet to develop your Home Escape Plan. Explain the escape plan to your family, and practise your fire drill. **Start tonight!**

Contact your local fire department for assistance.