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Practice Your Escape Plan

The first step to escaping a fire in a home is to plan ahead. During a fire, it is important that every family member knows what to do in their home. A home escape plan must be created and practiced so that each member knows exactly what to do. If a fire does strike, the house may be filled with smoke, restricting one's vision and also causing disorientation. During this chaos, one can become lost or trapped easily inside their home. Having an escape plan will reduce the chances of panic in a fire.

Each member of the family should know at least two different escape routes. A floor diagram is very useful when making a fire escape plan. Procedures such as opening windows periodically should be performed to familiarize themselves of the operation. If one should become trapped in a smoke-filled room, remember to stay low and crawl to the nearest exit.

A special meeting place should be established at a safe distance from the house. This organizes the family members after escaping, preventing wandering around in search for one another or becoming tempted to search the burning building. Remember, once you are out of the burning building, stay out. Fire escape plans save lives and protect you and your family's safety if a fire occurs.