

## "It's Fire Prevention Week: Practice Your Plan!"

At a young age, I was taught basic fundamentals of safety and procedures that should be taken in fire emergencies. The "Stop, Drop, and Roll" theory was popular, but I realized a family escape plan was crucial for my family's survival in a fire emergency. Besides having a plan, my family also needed to practice it and become familiar with its details.

One day my kindergarten assignment was to sit down with my parents and prepare our emergency escape plan. I thought I'd just awaken to fire alarms and escape the flames through our front door. However, my parents reminded me the importance of having several escape routes because fires could occur anywhere in a house. I learned a successful plan should include: smoke alarms, two exits from every room, an outside meeting place, and practice. Practicing our plan seemed ridiculous and I could only imagine what our neighbors were thinking when they saw my family running outside our house.

I'm sixteen years old now and have never had to use our plan. However, I'm thankful I was taught the importance of not just having a plan, but also practicing it so I'd be prepared in a real emergency.