



Contact: City of Wayne Fire Department for more information, 734-722-1111

Fire Safety The Great Escape

Have a plan and practice it regularly!

During a fire emergency, how well you and your family know your E.D.I.T.H. plan can mean the difference between life and death. Too often people panic in such emergencies because they do not know what to do. You and your family should make a great escape plan to ensure that everyone gets out quickly and safely. A clear E.D.I.T.H plan will help you make your great escape.

Draw a floor plan of your home or apartment.

Be sure to mark all doors and windows.

Know two ways out of every room.

If one way is blocked by smoke or fire, you can use the second way out.

Plan an outside meeting place where everyone will gather.

Plan to call the fire department from a neighbor's home. Once out, stay out! Invisible toxic gases can kill you. If someone or a pet is trapped, let the fire department rescue them.

Practice your exit plan until it is automatic.

Then practice again at least twice a year. Too often families make plans and then put them away in a drawer or old filing cabinet. When fire occurs, you will not have time to search for them.

Know what to do when you hear the alarm.

When you are in your room and you hear a smoke alarm going off - or someone yelling "FIRE!! OR SMOKE!!" - you have only a few minutes to get outside. Don't waste time checking to see if it is a false alarm. Treat all alarms as real; act immediately.

Get down on the floor and crawl low

Both heat and smoke rise, so if you stay between 12 and 36 inches off the floor, you will be safer from high heat and toxic fumes.

Check the door before opening

Look for smoke seeping around the door frame. Feel the door with your hand. It may be hot to the touch if there is fire on the other side.

Open doors slowly and carefully

Be very cautious. Even if you have checked the door, there could still be fire on the other side. When you open the door, put your head down and tilt your face away from the opening. Open the door just a little so that it will be easy to close if you detect fire.

Close doors behind you.

Remember that closed doors slow the flow of oxygen to the fire and give you added time to escape.

Learn how to escape through windows.

If you are on the first floor, exit the window feet first, grab the window ledge, hang down as far as you can, then jump. If you are above the first floor, open the window and stay near the open window until help arrives. You may also purchase an escape ladder from any hardware store. Do not exit a window any higher up than the first floor without an approved escape ladder, except as a last resort.

Do not use an elevator.

If you live in or work in a high rise building, locate the fire escapes and use them in an emergency. A fire can disable the elevator, and you could be trapped.

Safety Measures

Do you have these safety items in your home?

- Working smoke detectors on all levels and outside sleeping areas (each story or wing, basement, etc.). Have you tested your detector in the last month? All detectors should be tested monthly and the batteries changed two times a year. REMEMBER "CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS CHANGE YOUR BATTERY". It is a law in the City of Wayne to have working smoke detectors on all levels of your home.
- Emergency exit plans (E.D.I.T.H.) with two ways out from each room and a meeting place outdoors.