

Fire Safety & Prevention

Many Canadians have the belief that they are free of risk from a home fire; however, statistics show that 1 in 10 Canadians will experience a fire in their home. Home fires are the leading cause of unintentional death for young children and most of these take place in a home that does not have a smoke alarm or one that is in working condition. In Ontario leading causes of house fires are: cooking, heating/cooling, electrical, cigarettes, and appliances resulting in 150 deaths each year. Being prepared for a fire allows a better chance of surviving it!

Helpful Tips

SMOKE ALARMS

Install working smoke alarms on every floor of the home including the basement and outside all sleeping areas.

- For extra protection, install a smoke alarm in every bedroom
- Test your smoke alarms once a month using the test button
- Change smoke alarm batteries at least once a year and whenever the low-battery warning sounds
- Replace smoke alarms that are more than ten years old
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing, testing and maintaining smoke alarms

CARBON MONOXIDE

Often referred to as the "silent killer" Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that you cannot see, smell, or taste. Exposure to CO can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, burning eyes, confusion, drowsiness, and even loss of consciousness. Windsor Fire and Rescue Services recommend you purchase a Carbon Monoxide detector with electrochemical technology; it has a greater value for reliability and life safety.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING

Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with the entire family

- Make sure everyone knows at least two ways out of each room
- Choose a meeting place outside, such as a tree or lamp post, where everyone can be accounted for
- Call the fire department from outside the home, from a cell phone or neighbour's home
- Once out, stay out. Never re-enter a burning building
- Keep all exits in the home clear and easy to use

MATCHES AND LIGHTERS

- Keep matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children
- All adult smokers should have only one lighter or a book of matches and they should keep it with them at all times

- Teach young children not to touch matches or lighters. They should tell an adult if they find them
- If parents suspect their child is involved in inappropriate fire play, they can call their local fire department for information and assistance

SAFE COOKING PRACTICES

- Stay alert; do not cook when drowsy or impaired
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove top
- Keep young children away from the cooking area and never hold a child while cooking or when drinking/carrying hot foods/liquids
- Turn pot handles inward; ensure pot handles do not stick out from the front of the stove
- Never use dishcloths or tea towels in place of proper fitting oven mitts
- Never use the oven or range to heat your home
- Keep all appliance cords coiled up and away from counter edges
- Check appliance cords for breaks, splits, or cracked insulation and replace if necessary
- Do not overload electrical outlets or use extension cords, use a power bar if necessary
- Never store items in the oven

THINGS TO CONSIDER TO PREVENT FIRE IN YOUR HOME

- Always stay in the kitchen when you are cooking
- Always blow out candles before leaving the room
- If anyone in the home smokes, smoke outside
- Ensure items that can burn are one metre away from space heaters
- Avoid overloading the electrical outlets. Extension cords should be used only as a temporary connection

For More Information:

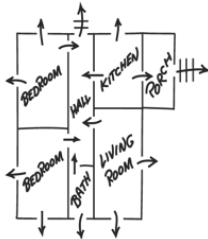
Windsor Fire & Rescue Services	windsorfire.com/divisions-prevention
Fire Safety for Kids	www.firesafety.gov/kids
Fire Prevention Canada	www.fipre.can.ca
Office of Fire Marshall-Ontario	www.ofm.gov.on.ca

Develop a home fire escape plan today... It could save your life tonight!

If a fire occurred in your home tonight, would your family get out safely? Everyone must know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds. Take a few minutes with everyone in your household to make a home fire escape plan, following the instructions below.



1. Draw a floor plan of your home



Use the grid on the back to draw a floor plan of your home. You should draw a plan for each level of your home.

2. Include all possible emergency exits

Draw in all the doors, windows and stairways. This will show you and your family all possible escape routes at a glance. Include any features, such as the roof of a garage or porch, that would help in your escape.

3. Show two ways out of every room, if possible.

The door will be the main exit from each room. However, if the door is blocked by smoke or fire, identify an alternate escape route, which could be a window. Make sure that all windows can open easily and that everyone knows how to escape through them to safety. If windows have security bars, equip them with quick-releasing devices.

4. Does anyone need help to escape?

Decide in advance who will assist the very young, older adults or people with disabilities in your household. A few minutes of planning will save valuable seconds in a real emergency.



5. Choose a meeting place outside

Choose a meeting place a safe distance from your home that everyone will remember. A tree, street light or a neighbour's home are all good choices. In case of fire, everyone will go directly to this meeting place so they can be accounted for.

6. Call the fire department from outside your home

Don't waste valuable seconds calling the fire department from inside your home. Once you have safely escaped, call the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbour's home.

7. Practice your escape

Review the plan with everyone in your household. Walk through the escape routes for each room with the entire family. Use this walk-through exercise to check your escape routes, making sure all exits are practical and easy to use. Then hold a fire drill twice a year and time how long it takes. In a real fire, you must react without hesitation as your escape routes may be quickly blocked by smoke or flames.

Remember:

- **Plan two ways out of every room, if possible**
- **Hold a fire drill twice a year**
- **Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas**

If you live in a high-rise apartment building, contact the building management for information on your building's fire safety plan.

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