



## Fire Preparedness Guide

**Fire is one of the most common disasters. Fire causes more deaths than any other type of disaster. But fire doesn't have to be deadly if you have early warning from a smoke detector and everyone in your family knows how to escape calmly. Be prepared by having various household members do each of the items on the checklist below and then get together to discuss your plan.**

- Walk Through** - Get everyone together in your household and make a fire safety plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. If you have children you should consider drawing a floor plan, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
  
- Smoke Alarms** - Smoke alarms have a big impact on home fire safety. Be sure to install smoke alarms in every room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
  
- Escape Plan** - It is important that everyone in the household understands the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily in the case of a fire emergency. If windows and doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened immediately should a fire emergency occur
  
- Meeting Place** - Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance from your home where everyone can meet after they have followed the emergency escape plan. Be sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your emergency escape plan. It's important to anybody in the residence with mobility limitations, such as; infants, older adults, or family members. Be sure to assign someone to assist them in the event of a fire emergency
  
- Stay Out** - Once you're out of the home and away from the fire emergency source, **STAY OUT!** Under no circumstances should you go back into a burning building. If someone is still missing, inform a department dispatcher when you call or a fire fighter. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.