



# Fire Escape Plan



Richmond Fire Prevention  
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In the event of a fire, time is the biggest enemy and every second counts. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. Escape plans can help you get out of your home quickly. It is important that every family practice. Remember **E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills in the Home)** and the following tips:

- Draw a floor plan of your home.
- Show two ways out of every room-including windows.
- Purchase an Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) approved collapsible ladder.
- Practice escaping from every room in the home.
- Make sure everyone understands the escape plan.
- Make sure that windows and screens can be easily opened.
- Provide alternatives for anyone with a disability.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters.
- Stay low, Get out and Stay out!
- Agree on a meeting place where everyone will gather after you have escaped.
- Remember to GET OUT FIRST, then call for help.
- Practice your plan at least twice a year, making sure that everyone is involved.

If you live in an apartment building

- Learn and practice your building's evacuation plan.
- If you hear the fire alarm, leave immediately.
- Use the stairs- NEVER use elevators during a fire.

Remember: Security bars require special precautions

Security bars can trap you in a fire. Windows and doors with security bars must have quick release devices to allow them to be opened immediately. Make sure everyone in the family understands and practices how to open locked or barred doors and windows.

Never open doors that are hot to the touch

To make sure that fire is not on the other side use the back of your hand to feel a closed door. If it feels hot, use your secondary escape route. Even if the door feels cool, open it carefully. If heat and smoke come in, close the door and use your alternate escape route.