



Planning Escape Routes

Page 1 of 2

Name _____

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In class, we discussed how to exit the school building in case of a fire. We planned an alternative way to get out of the building in case the usual exit is blocked. We also reviewed the school evacuation (fire) drill rules and procedures.

It is important to develop and practice a home escape plan in case of fire. Your child has an assignment to complete in which he or she will design a floor plan of your home and show at least two escape routes per room to use in case of fire. Please review the safety tips on the following page with your child and supervise his or her escape planning.

Once the plan is completed, have your family practice escaping your home, meeting in the assigned place, and alerting the proper emergency services. You will probably need three or four practices. Time your practices and, after each, discuss ways to improve your time. After your final practice, help your child figure out your average family escape time.

Your child will be discussing your practices and time trials at school and sharing ideas on ways to improve both the escape routes and escape times.

Thanks for your help with this important exercise.





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Page 2 of 2

When planning escape routes from your home —

- Determine at least two ways to escape from every room in your home.
- Consider escape ladders for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Learn how to use them, and store them near the window. In a high-rise building, remind everyone they cannot use elevators but must move carefully and quickly down the stairs.
- Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year, once you have established good practices and a safe escape time.
- With each family member, review how to call 9-1-1 or your local emergency service number and identify accurately the location of your home. (Remember, call 9-1-1 or any other emergency number only in an actual emergency.)

Escape Safely

- If you see smoke or fire in your first escape route, use your second way out.
- If you must exit through smoke, crawl low under the smoke to your exit.
- If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door carefully before opening it. If it is warm, use your second way out if possible.
- If smoke, heat or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright-colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call 9-1-1 and tell the operator your situation and location.
- **Once you are out, stay out! Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.**

